

Luke 2:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Analysis

Simeon declares: 'For mine eyes have seen thy salvation' (ὅτι εἶδον οἱ ὄφθαλμοί μου τὸ σωτήριον σου). The perfect tense 'eidon' (εἶδον, have seen) emphasizes completed action with continuing effects—he has seen and continues to possess this vision. 'Sōtērion' (σωτήριον, salvation) is neuter, referring to the means or instrument of salvation—the infant Jesus Himself is God's salvation incarnate. The possessive 'thy salvation' (σου) identifies Jesus as God's provision, planned from eternity. This echoes Isaiah 52:10: 'all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.' Simeon recognizes the universal scope of Christ's mission (v.31-32: 'a light to lighten the Gentiles'), expanding beyond Jewish particularism.

Historical Context

In Luke's theology, salvation (sōtēria) encompasses forgiveness of sins (1:77), deliverance from enemies, healing, and restoration. Simeon's declaration that salvation would be 'prepared before the face of all people' (v.31) challenged Jewish assumptions about Gentile exclusion. Within 20 years of Jesus' resurrection, the gospel would reach Rome, Antioch, and beyond, vindicating Simeon's prophecy. The humble presentation of a poor couple's baby became the hinge-point of salvation history.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Simeon's identification of the infant Jesus as salvation itself deepen our understanding of the incarnation?
2. What does Simeon's prophecy about Gentile inclusion teach about God's universal saving purposes?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	εἶδον	οἱ	όφθαλμοί	μου	τὸ	σωτήριόν	σου
For	have seen	G3588	eyes	mine	G3588	salvation	thy
G3754	G1492		G3788	G3450		G4992	G4675

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:6 (Salvation): And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Isaiah 49:6 (Salvation): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Isaiah 52:10 (Salvation): The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Genesis 49:18 (Salvation): I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.