

Luke 2:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

Analysis

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people (οἱ ἡτοίμασας κατὰ πρόσωπον πάντων τῶν λαῶν, ho hētoimasas kata prosōpon pantōn tōn laōn)—The phrase kata prosōpon literally means 'according to the face of' or 'in the presence of,' suggesting public, visible display. The Greek laōn (peoples, plural) signals gentile inclusion, not Israel alone.

God's salvation plan, conceived in eternity past (Ephesians 1:4), now manifests in tangible human flesh **before all peoples**. Simeon's words echo Isaiah 52:10 ('all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God'), recognizing that this Jewish infant carries universal significance. The temple scene becomes a cosmic unveiling—heaven's secret purposes made flesh for the world's witness.

Historical Context

Isaiah's Servant Songs (especially Isaiah 42:6, 49:6) prophesied Messiah as a light to the gentiles. First-century Jewish expectation largely missed this universal dimension, anticipating instead a nationalistic deliverer. Simeon's Spirit-inspired insight grasped what most missed—salvation transcending ethnic boundaries.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's 'preparation' of salvation throughout history demonstrate His sovereignty and faithfulness?
2. What does the universal scope of 'all peoples' reveal about the gospel's obligation to every culture and nation?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	ἡτοίμασας	κατὰ	πρόσωπον	πάντων	τῶν	λαῶν
Which	thou hast prepared	before	the face	of all	G3588	people
G3739	G2090	G2596	G4383	G3956		G2992

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