

# Luke 2:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

## Analysis

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**A light to lighten the Gentiles** (φῶς εἰς ἀποκάλυψιν ἐθνῶν, phōs eis apokalypsin ethnōn)—The Greek apokalypsin means 'revelation' or 'unveiling,' indicating Christ discloses God to gentile darkness (John 1:9). This directly quotes Isaiah 42:6 and 49:6, identifying Jesus as Isaiah's Suffering Servant who brings salvation beyond Israel.

**And the glory of thy people Israel** (καὶ δόξαν λαοῦ σου Ἰσραήλ, kai doxan laou sou Israēl)—The Greek doxa signifies God's manifest presence. Jesus simultaneously illuminates gentiles and glorifies Israel, fulfilling the Abrahamic promise that through Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). Simeon grasps what Paul would later articulate: Messiah came 'to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles might glorify God' (Romans 15:8-9).

## Historical Context

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Isaiah's prophecies consistently portrayed Israel's Messiah as having global significance, yet post-exilic Judaism increasingly emphasized particularistic nationalism. Simeon's prophetic insight recovered the universal vision—gentile enlightenment through Jewish Messiah. This would become Christianity's central missionary impulse.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ being simultaneously 'light to gentiles' and 'glory of Israel' unite God's particular and universal purposes?
2. What does Simeon's inclusion of gentiles in his prophecy challenge about religious tribalism or exclusivism today?

## Interlinear Text

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φῶς	εἰς	ἀποκάλυψιν	ἐθνῶν	καὶ	δόξαν	λαοῦ	σου
<b>A light</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>lighten</b>	<b>the Gentiles</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>the glory</b>	<b>people</b>	<b>of thy</b>
G5457	G1519	G602	G1484	G2532	G1391	G2992	G4675

Ἰσραήλ

**Israel**  
G2474

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 49:6** (Light): 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.

**Acts 26:23** (Light): That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

**Isaiah 9:2** (Light): The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

**Revelation 21:23** (Glory): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

**Acts 28:28** (Parallel theme): Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

**Isaiah 4:2** (Glory): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

**Isaiah 45:25** (Glory): In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

**Isaiah 60:19** (Glory): The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

**Matthew 4:16** (Light): The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.