

Luke 2:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Analysis

All who heard Jesus 'were astonished at his understanding and answers.' The Greek 'existanto' (έξισταντο) indicates they were amazed, overwhelmed, put out of their senses. Despite His young age, Jesus demonstrated wisdom that astonished learned scholars. This supernatural understanding fulfills Isaiah 11:2's prophecy that Messiah would be filled with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. Jesus' questions and answers revealed not just knowledge but penetrating insight into Scripture's meaning. His wisdom was divine, not merely the product of natural brilliance.

Historical Context

Rabbinic education emphasized memorization, careful reasoning, and dialectic questioning. Students advanced through mastering texts and demonstrating understanding through insightful questions and answers. That a twelve-year-old from Nazareth—not from Jerusalem's rabbinic schools—could astonish the temple's finest teachers was unprecedented. This incident foreshadows the Sanhedrin's later amazement that Jesus taught with authority without having studied under recognized rabbis (John 7:15). His wisdom came from God, not human instruction.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' supernatural wisdom at age 12 point to His unique identity as God incarnate?
2. What does this account teach about the relationship between divine gift and human development in Jesus' life?

Interlinear Text

ἐξίσταντο	δὲ	πάντες	οἱ	ἀκούοντες	αὐτοῦ	ἐπὶ	τῇ
were astonished	And	all	G3588	that heard	him	at	G3588
G1839	G1161	G3956		G191	G846	G1909	
συνέσει	καὶ	ταῖς	ἀποκρίσεσιν	αὐτοῦ			
understanding	and	G3588	answers	him			
G4907	G2532		G612	G846			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 7:28 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

Psalms 119:99 (Parallel theme): I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

Luke 4:32 (Parallel theme): And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

Mark 1:22 (Parallel theme): And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

John 7:15 (Parallel theme): And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?