

Luke 24:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Analysis

Jesus commissions: 'And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem' (καὶ κηρυχθῆναι ἐπὶ τῷ ὄνόματι αὐτοῦ μετάνοιαν εἰς ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, ἀρξάμενοι ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ). The message is 'repentance and remission of sins' (μετάνοιαν εἰς ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν)—turning from sin to receive forgiveness. This must be preached 'in his name' (ἐπὶ τῷ ὄνόματι αὐτοῦ), meaning on His authority and through His work. The scope is 'all nations' (πάντα τὰ ἔθνη), fulfilling Abrahamic promise (Genesis 12:3). Starting from Jerusalem (ἀρξάμενοι ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ) follows prophetic pattern (Isaiah 2:3) and historical progression in Acts.

Historical Context

This Great Commission parallels Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15, each Gospel emphasizing different aspects. Luke's version stresses the message content (repentance and forgiveness) and geographical expansion (Jerusalem to all nations). The Book of Acts fulfills this commission—beginning in Jerusalem (Acts 2), spreading to Judea and Samaria (Acts 8), reaching Gentiles (Acts 10), and extending to 'the uttermost part of the earth' (Acts 1:8). The emphasis on 'all nations' was revolutionary for Jewish disciples who had expected Messiah to restore Israel's kingdom (Acts 1:6).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the universal scope of the Great Commission (all nations) challenge parochial or ethnically-limited Christianity?
2. What does the centrality of repentance and forgiveness in the gospel message teach about the content of Christian evangelism?

Interlinear Text

καὶ κηρυχθῆναι ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ μετάνοιαν
And should be preached in name his that repentance
G2532 G2784 G3588 G3686 G846 G3341

καὶ ἄφεσιν ἀμαρτιῶν εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη ἀρξάμενον
And remission of sins among all nations beginning
G2532 G859 G266 G1519 G3956 G3588 G1484 G756

ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλήμ
at Jerusalem
G575 G2419

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:31 (Sin): Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Isaiah 49:6 (Parallel theme): 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 2:38 (Sin): Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 13:46 (Parallel theme): Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 20:21 (Repentance): Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Malachi 1:11 (Sin): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Acts 11:18 (Repentance): When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Acts 26:18 (Sin): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Psalms 86:9 (Parallel theme): All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.