

Luke 24:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Analysis

Continual temple worship: 'And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.' Luke concludes: they 'were continually in the temple' (ἵσταν διὰ παντὸς ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ, ἐσαν διὰ παντος εν τῷ hierō, were constantly in the temple), 'praising and blessing God' (εὐλογοῦντες τὸν Θεόν, eulogountes ton Theon). This concluding image shows the church at worship, awaiting Pentecost (Acts 1-2). Their presence in the temple indicates continuity with Judaism—Christianity fulfills rather than contradicts Israel's faith. They praise God because Jesus' death and resurrection accomplished salvation. The 'Amen' (Ἀμήν, Amēn, truly, let it be so) solemnly concludes the Gospel, affirming all its testimony as true.

Historical Context

Luke's Gospel begins and ends in the temple. It opens with Zechariah offering incense (Luke 1:8-9) and closes with disciples praising God there. This literary inclusio emphasizes continuity between Old and New Covenants. The early church continued temple worship initially (Acts 2:46, 3:1, 5:12, 21-42) while developing distinctively Christian practices (breaking bread, apostolic teaching, Acts 2:42). Their constant praise reflects transformed understanding—what seemed like tragedy (crucifixion) was revealed as victory (resurrection). This models Christian worship: regardless of circumstances, believers gather to praise God for salvation accomplished in Christ. Luke-Acts forms a continuous narrative: Luke ends with disciples awaiting the Spirit in the temple; Acts begins with Spirit's outpouring and explosive church growth.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What is significant about Luke's Gospel both beginning and ending in the temple?
2. How does the early church's continued temple worship demonstrate Christianity's Jewish roots?
3. What does their constant praise despite recent trauma teach about worship's foundation—circumstances or theology?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἦσαν διαπαντὸς ἐν τῷ ἵερῷ αἱνοῦντες καὶ
And were continually in the temple praising And
G2532 G2258 G1275 G3588 G2411 G134 G2532

εὐλογοῦντες τὸν θεόν Αμήν
blessing God Amen
G2127 G3588 G2316 G281

Additional Cross-References

Mark 16:20 (Parallel theme): And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.