

Luke 3:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

Analysis

Luke records: 'Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened.' Jesus' baptism occurs after 'all the people were baptized,' emphasizing His identification with humanity. Though sinless, He submitted to John's baptism, fulfilling all righteousness (Matthew 3:15) and modeling humble obedience. Luke uniquely notes Jesus was 'praying' when heaven opened—prayer characterizes Jesus' relationship with the Father throughout Luke's gospel. Heaven's opening signifies divine approval and revelation.

Historical Context

Jewish baptism was for sinners and Gentile converts, making Jesus' request to be baptized initially puzzling to John (Matthew 3:14). Jesus' submission to baptism identified Him with the people He came to save, inaugurating His public ministry. His prayer at baptism established a pattern—He prayed at all major ministry moments (Luke 3:21, 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 9:28-29, 22:32, 22:41-44, 23:34, 23:46). The opened heaven recalled Ezekiel 1:1, suggesting new prophetic revelation and divine presence.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why did the sinless Jesus submit to a baptism of repentance for sinners, and what does this teach about His identification with humanity?
2. What does Jesus' prayer at His baptism reveal about His dependence on the Father and His model for our spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|-------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| Ἐγένετο | δὲ | ἐν | τῷ | βαπτισθέντος | ἅπαντα | τὸν |
| it came to pass | Now | were baptized | G3588 | being baptized | when all | G3588 |
| G1096 | G1161 | G1722 | | G907 | G537 | |
| λαὸν | καὶ | Ἰησοῦ | βαπτισθέντος | καὶ | προσευχομένου | |
| the people | also | that Jesus | being baptized | also | praying | |
| G2992 | G2532 | G2424 | G907 | G2532 | G4336 | |
| ἀνεωχθῆναι | τὸν | οὐρανὸν | | | | |
| was opened | G3588 | the heaven | | | | |
| G455 | | G3772 | | | | |

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