

Luke 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Analysis

The climactic promise 'and all flesh shall see the salvation of God' declares the universal scope of God's redemptive work. The phrase 'all flesh' indicates every ethnic group and social class will have opportunity to witness God's salvation in Christ. This doesn't promise universal salvation but universal revelation and opportunity. The salvation is specifically 'of God'—originating in His initiative, accomplished by His power, demonstrating His character. That all flesh will 'see' implies both physical witnessing of Christ's ministry and spiritual perception of salvation's availability. This fulfills the Abrahamic promise that all nations would be blessed through his seed (Gen 12:3; 22:18). John's ministry inaugurates this universal offer.

Historical Context

John's quotation from Isaiah 40:5 extends beyond Israel to encompass all humanity. This universal scope challenged Jewish exclusivism while encouraging Gentile inclusion. The gospel's spread to all nations fulfilled this prophecy, demonstrating God's salvation transcends ethnic boundaries.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the universal scope of salvation ('all flesh') challenge ethnic or cultural exclusivism?
2. What is the difference between universal opportunity to see salvation and universal salvation?
3. How does Christ's salvation being 'of God' emphasize its divine source and accomplishment?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὄψεται	πᾶσα	σὰρξ	τὸ	σωτήριον	τοῦ	θεοῦ
And	shall see	all	flesh	G3588	the salvation	G3588	of God
G2532	G3700	G3956	G4561		G4992		G2316

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:10 (Salvation): The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 40:5 (Parallel theme): And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 49:6 (Salvation): 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.

Romans 10:18 (Parallel theme): But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Romans 10:12 (Parallel theme): For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.