

Luke 9:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Analysis

Luke records: 'When the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.' The phrase 'stedfastly set his face' (Greek 'to prosōpon estērisen,' τὸ πρόσωπον ἐστήρισεν) indicates firm, resolute determination—Jesus resolutely turned toward Jerusalem, knowing crucifixion awaited. The phrase 'received up' (Greek 'analēmpsis,' ἀνάλημψις) refers to His ascension but encompasses the entire process—death, resurrection, ascension. Jesus deliberately, courageously walked toward suffering, not as victim but as willing sacrifice accomplishing redemption.

Historical Context

This verse marks a major transition in Luke's gospel—Jesus begins His final journey to Jerusalem, which occupies Luke 9:51-19:27 (often called 'the travel narrative'). Jerusalem was where prophets were killed (Luke 13:33-34), where the temple stood, where Passover lambs were sacrificed. Jesus' determination to go there, knowing He would be betrayed, tried, and crucified, demonstrates His obedience to the Father's will and His love for sinners. Isaiah prophesied the Servant would 'set his face like a flint' (Isaiah 50:7), which Jesus fulfilled. His resolute courage models faithful obedience despite knowing suffering awaits.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' stedfastly setting His face toward Jerusalem teach about obedient determination despite knowing suffering awaits?
2. How does Jesus' willing journey to the cross demonstrate His love for sinners and commitment to accomplishing redemption?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγένετο	δὲ	ἐν	τῷ	συμπληροῦσθαι	τὰς	ἡμέρας	τῆς
it came to pass	And	when	G3588	was come	G3588	the time	G3588
G1096	G1161	G1722		G4845		G2250	
ἀναλήψεως	αὐτοῦ,	καὶ	αὐτοῦ,	τὸ	πρόσωπον	αὐτοῦ,	
should be received up	that he	G2532	that he	G3588	face	that he	
G354	G846		G846		G4383	G846	
ἐστήριξεν	τοῦ	πορεύεσθαι	εἰς	Ἰερουσαλήμ			
he stedfastly set	G3588	to go	to	Jerusalem			
G4741		G4198	G1519	G2419			

Additional Cross-References

Mark 16:19 (Parallel theme): So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Luke 13:22 (References Jerusalem): And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

Luke 18:31 (References Jerusalem): Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

Luke 17:11 (References Jerusalem): And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

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