

Luke 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

Analysis

Gabriel promises that John's birth will bring 'joy and gladness,' not merely to his parents but to many. The Greek 'chara' (joy) and 'agalliasis' (gladness/exultation) indicate deep, abiding spiritual joy, not temporary happiness. This joy flows from God's redemptive purposes—John as forerunner prepares the way for Messiah, the ultimate source of Christian joy. Reformed theology recognizes that true joy comes not from circumstances but from God's sovereign work of salvation. The birth of one child would trigger rejoicing because of his role in redemptive history.

Historical Context

After 400 years of prophetic silence, the announcement of a prophet in the spirit of Elijah brought hope that God's promises were finally being fulfilled. John would be the last and greatest Old Testament prophet, bridging the covenants.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's redemptive purposes transform personal joy into communal celebration?
2. What is the difference between happiness based on circumstances and joy rooted in God's sovereignty?
3. How does the birth of John the Baptist demonstrate God's faithfulness to His promises?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔσται χαρὰ σοι καὶ ἀγαλλίασις καὶ πολλοὶ ἐπὶ
And **shalt have** **joy** **thou** **And** **gladness** **And** **many** **at**
G2532 G2071 G5479 G4671 G2532 G20 G2532 G4183 G1909

τῇ γεννήσει αὐτοῦ χαρήσονται
G3588 **birth** **his** **shall rejoice**
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Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:58 (Parallel theme): And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

Proverbs 15:20 (Parallel theme): A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Proverbs 23:24 (Parallel theme): The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Genesis 21:6 (Parallel theme): And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

Proverbs 23:15 (Parallel theme): My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.