

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

Psalm 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	χαρά	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					
	G1083	G846	G5463					

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.