

Luke 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

Analysis

Zacharias's faithful completion of his priestly service despite his supernatural experience and physical condition demonstrates true devotion. The phrase 'as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished' shows he didn't abandon duty for personal crisis. His return home marks the transition from temple service to domestic life where God's promise would be fulfilled. This pattern—faithful service followed by God's blessing in private life—teaches that God honors those who fulfill their callings before seeking personal benefit. Zacharias's example shows that extraordinary divine encounters don't excuse ordinary responsibilities.

Historical Context

The priestly course served for one week twice yearly. Despite his muteness preventing the pronouncement of blessings, Zacharias completed his assigned duties. His return home to the hill country of Judea began the period during which Elisabeth would conceive.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does faithful completion of current duties prepare us for future blessings?
2. What does Zacharias's continued service despite difficulty teach about perseverance?
3. How do we balance extraordinary spiritual experiences with ordinary responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| καὶ | ἐγένετο | ὥς | ἐπλήσθησαν | αἱ | ἡμέραι | τῆς |
| And | it came to pass | that as soon as | were accomplished | G3588 | the days | G3588 |
| G2532 | G1096 | G5613 | G4130 | | G2250 | |
| λειτουργίας | αὐτοῦ | ἀπῆλθεν | εἰς | τὸν | οἶκον | αὐτοῦ |
| of his ministration | G846 | he departed | to | G3588 | house | G846 |
| G3009 | | G565 | G1519 | | G3624 | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 9:25 (Parallel theme): And their brethren, which were in their villages, were to come after seven days from time to time with them.