

Luke 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Analysis

Elisabeth's attribution—"Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me"—demonstrates theological understanding of divine sovereignty in personal circumstances. The verb 'looked on' (Greek 'epeiden') indicates God's compassionate attention, the same word used of God's regard for Israel's affliction (Acts 7:34). Elisabeth's recognition that God 'took away my reproach among men' shows how barrenness carried social stigma, yet her concern wasn't merely human opinion but God's glory. Her statement 'in the days wherein' specifies God's perfect timing. This models proper theological interpretation of personal experience through the lens of God's character and purposes.

Historical Context

Barrenness was considered divine judgment in Jewish culture (Deut 28:18), making Elisabeth's pregnancy God's visible vindication of her righteousness. Her testimony would strengthen community faith and prepare for the greater miracle of virgin birth.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do we properly attribute our circumstances to God's sovereign purpose without fatalism?
2. What does God's timing in removing Elisabeth's reproach teach about waiting on Him?
3. How should concern for God's glory shape our response to personal vindication?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	Οὕτως	μοι	πεποίηκεν	ὁ	κύριος	ἐν	ἡμέραις
G3754	Thus	with me	dealt	G3588	the Lord	among	the days
	G3779	G3427	G4160		G2962	G1722	G2250
αἷς	ἐπεῖδεν	ἀφελεῖν	τὸ	ὄνειδος	μου	ἐν	
wherein	he looked on	me to take away	G3588	reproach	my	among	
G3739	G1896	G851		G3681	G3450	G1722	
ἄνθρωποις							
men							
G444							

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 4:1 (Parallel theme): And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

Hebrews 11:11 (Parallel theme): Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Luke 1:13 (Parallel theme): But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

1 Samuel 1:6 (References Lord): And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

Genesis 25:21 (References Lord): And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

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