

Luke 1:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Analysis

Gabriel's greeting 'Hail, thou that art highly favoured' (χαῖρε, κεχαριτωμένη) uses the perfect passive participle of 'charitoō' (χαριτώω), meaning 'to grace' or 'to endue with grace.' The perfect tense indicates Mary had been graced by God in the past with continuing effects—she existed in a state of having received divine favor. The phrase 'the Lord is with thee' (ὁ κύριος μετὰ σοῦ) echoes Old Testament formulas for those chosen for special service (Judges 6:12, Jeremiah 1:8). Mary's favor was not earned merit but God's sovereign choice. Catholic theology's 'full of grace' translation from the Vulgate (gratia plena) goes beyond the Greek text, which emphasizes God's action toward Mary, not Mary's inherent state.

Historical Context

Young Jewish women in first-century Palestine were typically betrothed between ages 12-14. Mary's betrothal to Joseph was legally binding, requiring divorce to dissolve, though consummation occurred only after the wedding ceremony. The angel's appearance in her home was highly unusual—angelic announcements typically came to men in public or temple settings (Zacharias, shepherds, Joseph in dreams).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does God's choice of a young, unmarried woman from Nazareth reveal about how He selects His servants?
2. How should we understand Mary's 'favoured' status without attributing to her the co-redemptive role some traditions claim?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἰσελθὼν	ό	ἄγγελος	πρὸς	αὐτὴν	εἶπεν	Χαῖρε
And	came in		the angel	unto	her	and said	Hail
G2532	G1525		G3588	G32	G4314	G846	G5463
κεχαριτωμένη	ό	κύριος	μετὰ	σοῦ	εὐλογημένη		
thou that art highly favoured	G3588	the Lord	is with	thee	blessed		
G5487		G2962	G3326	G4675		G2127	
σὺ	ἐν	γυναιξίν					
art thou	among	women					
G4771	G1722	G1135					

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 10:19 (References Lord): And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Judges 6:12 (References Lord): And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

Luke 1:30 (Parallel theme): And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Ephesians 1:6 (Parallel theme): To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Acts 18:10 (Parallel theme): For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

Luke 1:42 (Blessing): And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Judges 5:24 (Blessing): Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent.

Isaiah 43:5 (Parallel theme): Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

Matthew 12:48 (Parallel theme): But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

Hosea 14:2 (References Lord): Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.