

Luke 1:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Analysis

The angel's words 'Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God' address Mary's troubled response to the greeting. The phrase 'found favor' (Greek 'heurēs charin,' εὗρες χάριν) echoes Old Testament language (Noah, Moses, David) of God's electing grace. Mary did not earn this favor through merit—she found it by God's sovereign choice. The Greek 'charis' (χάρις, grace/favor) emphasizes unmerited divine kindness. This greeting establishes that the incarnation proceeds from grace, not human worthiness, making Mary's selection a pure act of divine election.

Historical Context

Mary was likely 12-14 years old, the typical age for betrothal in first-century Palestine. As a young virgin from obscure Nazareth, she represented the 'low estate' God habitually chooses to demonstrate His power through weakness (1 Corinthians 1:26-29). The phrase 'found favor' deliberately echoes Hannah's story (1 Samuel 1:18), another barren woman chosen for miraculous conception to birth a prophet (Samuel). Luke emphasizes parallels between the two accounts, showing continuity in God's methods.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Mary's 'finding favor' illustrate the doctrine of sovereign grace and divine election?
2. What does God's choice of an unknown virgin from Nazareth teach about how He accomplishes His greatest purposes?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|-------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|--------|
| καὶ | εἶπεν | οὐ | ἄγγελος | αὐτῇ | Μή | φοβοῦ | Μαριάμ |
| And | said | G3588 | the angel | unto her | not | Fear | Mary |
| G2532 | G2036 | | G32 | G846 | G3361 | G5399 | G3137 |
| εὗρες | γὰρ | χάριν | παρὰ | τῷ | θεῷ | | |
| thou hast found | for | favour | with | G3588 | God | | |
| G2147 | G1063 | G5485 | G3844 | | G2316 | | |

Additional Cross-References

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.

Romans 8:31 (References God): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Matthew 14:27 (Parallel theme): But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Luke 12:32 (Parallel theme): Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Isaiah 41:14 (Parallel theme): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 44:2 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Matthew 28:5 (Parallel theme): And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Hebrews 13:6 (Parallel theme): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Acts 27:24 (References God): Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.