

Luke 1:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Analysis

Gabriel announces Mary will conceive and bear a son named Jesus. The name 'Jesus' (Greek 'Iēsous,' Ἰησοῦς, from Hebrew 'Yeshua,' ִישׁוּא) means 'Yahweh saves' or 'the LORD is salvation.' This name explicitly identifies the child's redemptive mission—He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The naming is divinely prescribed, not chosen by parents, indicating divine sovereignty over the incarnation. Every time the name is spoken, it proclaims the gospel message.

Historical Context

The name Yeshua/Jesus was common in first-century Judaism, often given to honor Joshua who led Israel into the Promised Land. However, Gabriel's prescribed naming indicates this child will be THE Yeshua who accomplishes ultimate salvation. The parallel with Matthew 1:21's angelic announcement to Joseph reinforces the divine mandate. In Jewish culture, names carried prophetic significance, revealing identity and destiny. By naming the child Jesus, God publicly proclaimed His intent to save His people.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the divinely prescribed name 'Jesus' (Yahweh saves) define the incarnation's purpose from its announcement?
2. What does the choice of a common name like 'Jesus' teach about the incarnation's accessibility and identification with humanity?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδού, συλλήψῃ ἐν γαστρὶ καὶ τέξῃ νιόν
And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb And bring forth a son
G2532 G2400 G4815 G1722 G1064 G2532 G5088 G5207

καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν
And shalt call name his JESUS
G2532 G2564 G3588 G3686 G846 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:21 (References Jesus): And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:25 (References Jesus): And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Luke 2:21 (References Jesus): And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Matthew 1:23 (Parallel theme): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Galatians 4:4 (Parallel theme): But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

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.

Luke 1:27 (Parallel theme): To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.