

Luke 1:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Analysis

Gabriel's prophecy contains four key messianic identifiers:

1. 'He shall be great'—surpassing even John the Baptist (v.15)
2. 'Son of the Highest'—divine sonship, not merely adoptive but essential
3. 'the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David'—fulfilling the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16)
4. 'he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever'—eternal kingship.

The phrase 'of his kingdom there shall be no end' (τῆς βασιλείας αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔσται τέλος) directly echoes Daniel 7:14's prophecy of the Son of Man's everlasting dominion. This verse establishes Jesus as the promised Davidic Messiah while simultaneously transcending purely political messianic expectations.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish messianic hope centered on a Davidic king who would restore Israel's political sovereignty. The Psalms of Solomon (circa 50 BC) describe expected military victory over Gentile oppressors. Gabriel's announcement uses traditional messianic language but hints at a deeper reality—a spiritual kingdom transcending ethnic and temporal boundaries. Mary would later ponder how her son could be both suffering servant and eternal king.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus fulfill the Davidic covenant in ways that transcend first-century political expectations?
2. What does the eternal nature of Christ's kingdom mean for how we understand our citizenship and priorities as Christians?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος	ἔσται	μέγας	καὶ	υἱὸς	ὑψίστου	κληθήσεται	καὶ	
He	shall be	great	and	the Son	of the Highest	shall be called	and	
G3778	G2071	G3173	G2532	G5207	G5310	G2564	G2532	
δῶσει	αὐτοῦ	κύριος	ὁ	θεὸς	τὸν	θρόνον	Δαβὶδ	τοῦ
shall give	of his	the Lord	G3588	God	G3588	the throne	David	G3588
G1325	G846	G2962		G2316		G2362		
πατρὸς	αὐτοῦ							
father	of his							
G3962	G846							

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 16:5 (References David): And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

Luke 1:35 (References God): And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Psalms 132:11 (References Lord): The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

Mark 5:7 (References God): And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

Revelation 3:7 (References David): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Matthew 28:18 (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Luke 1:76 (References Lord): And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

Acts 2:30 (References God): Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

Romans 1:4 (References God): And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

2 Samuel 7:16 (Parallel theme): And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.