

Luke 1:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Analysis

Gabriel's revelation that Elisabeth has conceived 'in her old age' serves as confirming sign to Mary, though she didn't request it. The addition 'and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren' provides specific, verifiable evidence of God's power over natural impossibility. This gracious provision of confirmation demonstrates God's pastoral care for His servants—He strengthens faith through concrete evidence even when not demanded. Elisabeth's pregnancy would also provide Mary with a godly, understanding companion during early pregnancy. God's providence coordinates these miraculous conceptions for mutual encouragement and confirmation.

Historical Context

The six-month difference meant Elisabeth would give birth to John approximately three months before Mary bore Jesus, establishing John's role as forerunner even in their births. This also meant Mary could visit Elisabeth for confirmation and fellowship during her crucial first trimester.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God graciously provide confirmation of His promises even when we don't demand it?
2. What role does Christian community play in confirming and strengthening faith?
3. How did God's timing of both conceptions serve His redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδού, Ἐλισάβετ τῇ συγγενής σου καὶ αὐτῇ

And behold Elisabeth who cousin thy And with her

G2532 G2400

G1665

G3588

G4773

G4675

G2532

G846

συνείληφυῖα υἱὸν ἐν γήρᾳ αὐτῇ καὶ οὗτος μὴν

conceived a son in old age with her And this month

G4815

G5207

G1722

G1094

G846

G2532

G3778

G3376

ἔκτος ἐστὶν αὐτῇ τῇ καλουμένῃ στείρᾳ.

the sixth is with her who was called barren

G1623

G2076

G846

G3588

G2564

G4723

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org