

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	ἰδοὺ,	Ἑλισάβετ	τῇ	συγγενῆς	σου	καὶ	αὐτῇ
And	behold	Elisabeth	who	cousin	thy	And	with her
G2532	G2400	G1665	G3588	G4773	G4675	G2532	G846
συνείληφθα	υἱὸν	ἐν	γῆρα	αὐτῇ	καὶ	οὗτος	μῆν
conceived	a son	in	old age	with her	And	this	month
G4815	G5207	G1722	G1094	G846	G2532	G3778	G3376
ἕκτος	ἐστὶν	αὐτῇ	τῇ	καλουμένη	στεῖρα·		
the sixth	is	with her	who	was called	barren		
G1623	G2076	G846	G3588	G2564	G4723		

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