

Luke 1:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Analysis

Elisabeth pronounces Mary 'blessed' for believing God's word would be fulfilled. The Greek 'pisteuō' (πιστεύω, believed) indicates active, trusting faith—not mere intellectual assent but confident reliance on God's promises. This contrasts with Zechariah's doubt (Luke 1:18-20), which resulted in temporary judgment. Mary's faith response ('be it unto me according to thy word,' v. 38) becomes the pattern for true discipleship—hearing and believing God's word regardless of apparent impossibilities. Faith precedes fulfillment and enables participation in God's purposes.

Historical Context

This blessing highlights the crucial role of faith in redemptive history. The Old Testament chronicles those who believed God's promises (Abraham, Moses, David) and those who doubted (wilderness generation, Saul, etc.). Mary stands in the line of faithful women (Sarah, Rahab, Ruth, Hannah) who trusted God's word despite impossible circumstances. Elisabeth's recognition that belief itself brings blessing establishes New Testament theology—justification by faith, not works (Romans 4:3-5, Hebrews 11:11).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Mary's believing faith contrast with Zechariah's doubt, and what does this teach about appropriate response to God's word?
2. In what ways does Elisabeth's pronouncement of blessing for belief anticipate New Testament theology of justification by faith?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	μακαρία	ἢ	πιστεύσασα	ὅτι	ἔσται	τελείωσις
And	blessed	G3588	is she that believed	for	there shall be	a performance
G2532	G3107		G4100	G3754	G2071	G5050
τοῖς	λελαλημένοις		αὐτῇ	παρὰ	κυρίου	
G3588	of those things which were told	G2980	her	from	the Lord	
			G846	G3844	G2962	

Additional Cross-References

John 20:29 (Faith): Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

John 11:40 (Faith): Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Luke 1:20 (Faith): And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

2 Chronicles 20:20 (Faith): And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said,

Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

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