

Luke 1:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Analysis

Mary's declaration 'my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour' reveals theological depth—she recognizes her need for a Savior despite being chosen to bear God's Son. The perfect tense 'hath rejoiced' indicates completed action with ongoing results; her joy began and continues. Mary's identification of God as 'my Saviour' refutes later Marian dogmas of sinlessness—she needed salvation like all humanity. Her rejoicing flows not from personal merit but from God's gracious choice and saving work. This models that highest honor from God still requires His saving grace. Mary's Magnificat echoes Hannah's song (1 Sam 2), showing her saturation in Scripture and God's pattern of exalting the humble.

Historical Context

Mary's use of 'Saviour' (Greek 'soter') applies to God what angels would soon announce about her son (Luke 2:11). Her recognition of needing salvation despite her unique role demonstrates Jewish understanding that all people need God's redemptive work.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Mary's confession of needing a Savior teach about human sinfulness?
2. How can we rejoice in God's choice while acknowledging our unworthiness?
3. Why is it significant that Mary's song echoes Old Testament prayers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἡγαλλίασεν τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ θεῷ τῷ
And **hath rejoiced** G2532 G21 G3588 **spirit** **my** **in** G3588 **God** G3588
G4990 G3450

σωτῆρί μου
Saviour **my**
G4990 G3450

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:9 (Salvation): And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

1 Timothy 2:3 (Salvation): For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Habakkuk 3:18 (Salvation): Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Titus 2:10 (Salvation): Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

1 Timothy 1:1 (Salvation): Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Luke 2:11 (Salvation): For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Titus 2:13 (Salvation): Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Jude 1:25 (Salvation): To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

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