

Luke 1:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Analysis

Mary's description of herself as God's 'handmaiden' (Greek 'doule'—female slave) and her 'low estate' demonstrates humility and submission to God's sovereign will. God's regarding her low estate echoes His pattern of choosing the weak and lowly (1 Cor 1:27-28). Her prophecy that 'all generations shall call me blessed' has been fulfilled as Christians honor her unique role while avoiding worship. The passive 'shall call me blessed' recognizes that her blessedness comes from God's choice, not personal merit. Mary models how election should produce humility, not pride—she is blessed solely because God regarded her, not because she merited His attention.

Historical Context

Mary came from Nazareth, an insignificant Galilean village ('Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?' John 1:46). As a young, poor woman in a patriarchal society, her 'low estate' was real. Yet God chose her for history's highest honor, demonstrating His sovereign grace transcending social status.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's choice of the lowly demonstrate His sovereign grace?
2. What is the difference between honoring Mary's role and worshiping her?
3. How should recognition of God's gracious choice affect our humility?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	ἐπέβλεψεν	ἐπὶ	τὴν	ταπείνωσιν	τῆς	δούλης	αὐτοῦ	
For	he hath regarded			the low estate		handmaiden		
G3754	G1914	G1909	G3588	G5014	G3588	G1399	G846	
ἰδοῦ,	γὰρ	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	νῦν	μακαριοῦσίν	με	πᾶσαι	αἱ
behold	for	from		henceforth	blessed	me	all	
G2400	G1063	G575	G3588	G3568	G3106	G3165	G3956	G3588
γενεαί								
generations								
G1074								

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 138:6 (Parallel theme): Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Malachi 3:12 (Blessing): And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

1 Samuel 1:11 (Parallel theme): And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

Luke 11:27 (Blessing): And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.

Psalms 136:23 (Parallel theme): Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

Luke 1:28 (Blessing): And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Isaiah 66:2 (Parallel theme): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Genesis 30:13 (Blessing): And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.

Luke 1:42 (Blessing): And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

1 Samuel 2:8 (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.