

Luke 1:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

Analysis

Mary's declaration 'he that is mighty hath done to me great things' attributes everything to God's power, not her merit. The perfect tense 'hath done' emphasizes completed divine action. The phrase 'his name is holy' connects God's mighty acts to His essential character—He works according to His holy nature. Mary's theology recognizes that God's holiness doesn't prevent His gracious intervention but motivates it according to His covenant faithfulness. Her focus on God's name echoes Exodus 3:14-15 and Psalm 111:9, grounding her experience in redemptive history. Mary interprets her pregnancy theologically as God's mighty work, not personally as her achievement.

Historical Context

Mary's emphasis on God's 'mighty' acts (Greek 'dunatos'—powerful one) would resonate with Jewish expectation of God's powerful intervention to save His people. Her recognition of His holiness places her experience within the framework of God's covenant character and promises.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's holiness shape our understanding of His works?
2. Why is it important to attribute our blessings to God's power rather than our merit?
3. How does Mary's theological interpretation of her experience model proper perspective?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	ἐποίησέν	μοι	μεγάλεϊα	ὁ	δυνατός	καὶ	ἅγιον
For	hath done	to me	great things	G3588	he that is mighty	and	holy
G3754	G4160	G3427	G3167		G1415	G2532	G40
τὸ	ὄνομα	αὐτοῦ					
G3588	name	is his					
	G3686	G846					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 111:9 (Holy): He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

Psalms 99:3 (Holy): Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.

Jeremiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Genesis 17:1 (Parallel theme): And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Isaiah 57:15 (Holy): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Revelation 15:4 (Holy): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Psalms 99:9 (Holy): Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Exodus 15:11 (Holy): Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

1 Samuel 2:2 (Holy): There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

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