

Luke 1:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Analysis

Mary's declaration that God's 'mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation' expresses covenant theology—God's mercy extends to those who fear Him across all generations. The phrase 'fear him' doesn't mean terror but reverential awe and obedient trust. This mercy isn't universal but particular, directed to those who fear Him, consistent with God's covenant promises. The phrase 'from generation to generation' (literally 'to generations and generations') emphasizes the continuity of God's covenant faithfulness. Mary understands her experience within salvation history—God's mercy to her connects to His eternal pattern of showing mercy to His covenant people. This Reformed understanding sees salvation as God's work spanning history.

Historical Context

Mary's words echo Psalm 103:17, demonstrating her grounding in Scripture and covenant theology. God's mercy to her continues His pattern of covenant faithfulness to Abraham's seed (Luke 1:54-55), showing the unity of redemptive history.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's mercy extend across generations through covenant faithfulness?
2. What is the relationship between fearing God and receiving His mercy?
3. How does your experience of God's grace connect to His work throughout history?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τὸ	ἔλεος	αὐτόν	εἰς	γενεῶν	γενεῶν	τοῖς
And	G3588	mercy	him	from	generation	generation	G3588
G2532		G1656	G846	G1519	G1074	G1074	
φοβουμένοις						αὐτόν	
is on them that fear						him	
G5399						G846	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 20:6 (Grace): And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Genesis 17:7 (Parallel theme): And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Psalms 118:4 (Grace): Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalms 145:19 (Parallel theme): He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Psalms 31:19 (Parallel theme): Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

Psalms 103:11 (Grace): For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Psalms 115:13 (Parallel theme): He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.

Revelation 19:5 (Parallel theme): And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

Psalms 147:11 (Grace): The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

Psalms 85:9 (Parallel theme): Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

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