

Luke 1:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Analysis

Mary proclaims God's sovereign reversal: 'He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.' This declares God's absolute authority over human power structures. The aorist tenses describe God's characteristic action throughout redemptive history. 'Seats' (Greek 'thronon') refers to thrones and positions of authority. God's deposing the mighty isn't arbitrary but follows His pattern of humbling the proud. The exaltation of 'low degree' demonstrates God's gracious choice of the weak and despised. This principle finds ultimate expression in Christ's incarnation—God taking on human flesh, the ultimate descent before the ultimate exaltation (Phil 2:6-11). Mary herself exemplifies this pattern.

Historical Context

Mary's words reflect Jewish hope for God to overthrow oppressive rulers (Roman occupiers) and restore Israel. Yet the true fulfillment came through Messiah's kingdom that conquers through weakness and exalts through humility—radically redefining political expectations.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's pattern of reversal challenge worldly values of power and status?
2. What does Christ's incarnation teach about God exalting the lowly?
3. How should this principle shape Christian ambition and attitude toward authority?

Interlinear Text

καθεῖλεν	δυνάστας	ἀπὸ	θρόνων	καὶ	ὑψωσεν
He hath put down	the mighty	from	their seats	and	exalted
G2507	G1413	G575	G2362	G2532	G5312
ταπεινούς					
them of low degree					
G5011					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 17:24 (Parallel theme): And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

James 4:10 (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Luke 18:14 (Parallel theme): I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Ecclesiastes 4:14 (Parallel theme): For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor.

1 Samuel 2:4 (Parallel theme): The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

Amos 9:11 (Parallel theme): In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

Mark 6:3 (Parallel theme): Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

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