

Luke 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Analysis

Zacharias and Elisabeth's righteousness 'before God' (Greek 'enopion tou Theou') emphasizes that true righteousness is defined by God's standard, not human opinion. Their blameless observance of commandments doesn't imply sinless perfection but genuine faith expressed through obedience. From a Reformed perspective, their righteousness was by faith (Rom 4:3), evidenced by faithful adherence to God's law. They exemplify Old Testament saints who trusted God's promises before Christ's coming.

Historical Context

As a priest of Abijah's division and descendant of Aaron, Zacharias represented the faithful remnant awaiting Messiah. Their childlessness, despite righteousness, prepared them for God's miraculous intervention, demonstrating that blessing doesn't always equal immediate fulfillment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be righteous 'before God' versus before people?
2. How does genuine faith express itself through obedience to God's commands?
3. Why does God sometimes withhold blessings from even the most faithful believers?

Interlinear Text

ἵσταν δὲ δίκαιοι ἀμφότεροι ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ
they were And righteous both before G3588 God
G2258 G1161 G1342 G297 G1799 G2316

πορευόμενοι ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐντολαῖς καὶ
walking in all G3588 the commandments and
G4198 G1722 G3956 G1785 G2532

δικαιώμασιν τοῦ κυρίου ἀμεμπτοι
ordinances G3588 of the Lord blameless
G1345 G2962 G273

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 7:1 (Righteousness): And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Genesis 17:1 (References God): 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.

Acts 24:16 (References God): And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (References God): To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Philippians 2:15 (References God): That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Job 1:1 (References God): There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

1 Kings 9:4 (Parallel theme): And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

Job 1:8 (References God): And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?