

Luke 1:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

Analysis

Elisabeth's decisive response—'Not so; but he shall be called John'—demonstrates submission to divine revelation over cultural expectation. Her certainty and the future tense 'shall be' indicate settled conviction based on God's word through Gabriel. That Elisabeth knew the name proves Zacharias had communicated (likely in writing) what the angel commanded. Her willingness to contradict family and community expectations shows that obedience to God transcends social pressure. The name John (Hebrew Yochanan, 'Yahweh is gracious') proclaims the theological meaning of his birth and foreshadows his message of repentance and divine grace. Elisabeth's firmness models that knowing God's will requires standing against even well-meaning opposition.

Historical Context

In patriarchal Jewish society, a mother publicly contradicting naming customs—especially without the father speaking—would have been shocking. Elisabeth's boldness demonstrated the strength of her conviction that this name came from God, not human preference.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can we maintain obedience to God's revealed will despite social pressure?
2. What does the name 'John' (God is gracious) teach about his ministry and message?
3. When is it appropriate to firmly resist even well-meaning counsel?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀποκριθεῖσα ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ εἶπεν Οὐχὶ ἀλλὰ
And **answered** G3588 **mother** **his** **and said** **Not** **so but**
G2532 G611 G3384 G846 G2036 G3780 G235

κληθήσεται Ἰωάννης
he shall be called **John**
G2564 G2491

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:13 (References John): But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

2 Samuel 12:25 (Parallel theme): And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Isaiah 8:3 (Parallel theme): And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz.