

Luke 1:65

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

Analysis

Fear falling on all dwelling around them demonstrates appropriate response to manifest divine power. This 'fear' (Greek 'phobos') combines awe, reverence, and recognition of God's presence. The result—'all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country'—shows how God's extraordinary works generate witness. That these events spread widely prepared the region for John's later ministry. The community's fear wasn't terror but holy recognition that God was working among them. This response models how divine intervention should produce both worship and testimony. The spreading of these events built expectation for God's continued work.

Historical Context

The Judean hill country, relatively small and close-knit, would have rapidly spread news of miraculous pregnancy, naming controversy, and speech restoration. This prepared the region to recognize John as one marked by God when he later emerged to preach.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between holy fear and mere terror in response to God's works?
2. How should witnessing God's power lead to both worship and testimony?
3. How do extraordinary divine works prepare communities for God's further purposes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐγένετο ἐπὶ πάντα φόβος τοὺς περιοικοῦντας

And came on all fear that dwelt round about
G2532 G1096 G1909 G3956 G5401 G3588 G4039

αὐτούς καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ὁρεινῇ τῇς Ἰουδαίας

them And throughout all the hill country of Judaea
G846 G2532 G1722 G3650 G3588 G3714 G3588 G2449

διελαλεῖτο πάντα τὰ ῥήματα ταῦτα

were noised abroad all sayings these
G1255 G3956 G3588 G4487 G5023

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:39 (Parallel theme): And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

Acts 5:5 (Parallel theme): And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 2:43 (Parallel theme): And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Acts 5:11 (Parallel theme): And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Luke 7:16 (Parallel theme): And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

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