

Luke 1:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Analysis

The community's laying up these events 'in their hearts' shows thoughtful meditation on God's works, not mere gossip. Their question—'What manner of child shall this be?'—demonstrates expectation that one marked by such supernatural occurrences would have significant destiny. The addition 'And the hand of the Lord was with him' confirms divine favor and purpose on John's life from birth. This phrase echoes Old Testament descriptions of God's presence with those He calls (1 Sam 18:12, 14). The community's recognition and pondering created atmosphere of expectation for John's ministry. Their question would be answered as John grew and began prophetic ministry.

Historical Context

The 'hill country of Judaea' (v39) witnessed these events that marked John as special from birth. The community's expectation would later be fulfilled when John emerged from wilderness to call Israel to repentance. Their pondering kept alive awareness of God's work in their midst.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does pondering God's works in our hearts differ from mere discussion?
2. What does it mean to have 'the hand of the Lord' upon someone's life?
3. How should we respond when we witness God's special calling on someone from birth?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔθεντο πάντες οἱ ἀκούσαντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ
! And them laid them up all G3588 they that heard in G3588 hearts
G2532 G5087 G3956 G191 G1722 G2588

αὐτοῦ λέγοντες Τί ἄρα τὸ παιδίον τοῦτο ἔσται
him saying What manner G3588 of child this be
G846 G3004 G5101 G686 G3813 G5124 G2071

καὶ χεὶρ κυρίου ἦν μετ' αὐτοῦ
! And the hand of the Lord was with him
G2532 G5495 G2962 G2258 G3326 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:21 (References Lord): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Genesis 39:2 (References Lord): And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Luke 2:51 (Parallel theme): And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Luke 2:19 (Parallel theme): But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.