

Luke 1:67

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Analysis

Zacharias being 'filled with the Holy Ghost' enabled him to prophesy, demonstrating that all true prophecy comes from divine inspiration, not human insight (2 Pet 1:21). The aorist passive 'was filled' indicates God's sovereign action filling him for this specific purpose. Zacharias's prophecy (the Benedictus, vv68-79) interprets recent events through redemptive-historical lens, connecting John's birth to God's covenant promises and messianic salvation. That a priest prophesies at his son's circumcision demonstrates God bridging Old Testament priesthood and New Testament prophecy. The Spirit's filling transforms Zacharias from doubting questioner to prophetic interpreter of God's purposes. This models how the Spirit illuminates understanding of God's redemptive work.

Historical Context

Zacharias, though a priest, now functions as prophet—the last Old Testament prophet before John. His Spirit-filled prophecy demonstrates continuity between Old Testament prophetic tradition and New Testament Spirit-baptism. The Benedictus would become part of Christian liturgy, preserving his prophetic interpretation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit enable believers to understand and interpret God's redemptive work?
2. What is the relationship between Spirit-filling and prophetic insight?
3. How does Zacharias's prophecy demonstrate the unity of Old and New Testament revelation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	Ζαχαρίας	ὁ	πατὴρ	αὐτοῦ	ἐπλήσθη	πνεύματος
And	Zacharias	G3588	father	his	was filled	Ghost
G2532	G2197		G3962	G846	G4130	G4151
ἁγίου	καὶ	Προεφήτευσεν	λέγων			
with the Holy	And	prophesied	saying			
G40	G2532	G4395	G3004			

Additional Cross-References

Joel 2:28 (Spirit): And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Luke 1:41 (Holy): And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Luke 1:15 (Holy): For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.