

Luke 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

Analysis

Elisabeth's barrenness parallels Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Hannah—women through whom God demonstrated His sovereignty over human impossibility. The detail that 'they both were now well stricken in years' emphasizes the miraculous nature of God's coming intervention. This pattern of barrenness-to-birth foreshadows the greater miracle of virgin birth. God's delays and denials serve His redemptive purposes, preparing both parents and the world for extraordinary demonstrations of His power.

Historical Context

In ancient Jewish culture, barrenness was considered a reproach, yet this couple remained faithful despite social stigma. Their advanced age made natural conception impossible, setting the stage for God's supernatural work in fulfilling His promise of Messiah's forerunner.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God use seasons of barrenness to prepare for greater blessing?
2. What does this teach about trusting God when His timing doesn't align with ours?
3. How can apparent impossibilities become opportunities to witness God's power?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οὐκ ἦσαν αὐτῶν τέκνον καθότι ἡ Ἐλισάβετ
And no had they child because G3588 that Elisabeth
G2532 G3756 G2258 G846 G5043 G2530 G1665

ἦσαν στεῖρα καὶ ἀμφότεροι προβεβηκότες ἐν ταῖς
had barren And both now well stricken in G3588
G2258 G4723 G2532 G297 G4260 G1722

ἡμέραις αὐτῶν ἦσαν
years they had
G2250 G846 G2258

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:11 (Parallel theme): Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Genesis 18:11 (Parallel theme): Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Genesis 25:21 (Parallel theme): And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

1 Samuel 1:2 (Parallel theme): And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

Genesis 17:17 (Parallel theme): Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

2 Kings 4:14 (Parallel theme): And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

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