

Luke 1:72

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

Analysis

Salvation comes 'to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant.' This emphasizes that God's saving work flows from covenant faithfulness, not human merit. The word 'perform' (Greek 'poiesai') indicates accomplishment and completion—God bringing to fulfillment what He promised. 'Mercy' emphasizes the gracious character of salvation—unearned and undeserved. God's 'remembering' His covenant doesn't mean He forgot, but that He acts according to His covenant commitments. This verse articulates covenant theology: God saves because He promised, and He keeps His word. Salvation originates in God's sovereign, gracious promise to the patriarchs.

Historical Context

The covenant with Abraham (Gen 12, 15, 17), reaffirmed to Isaac and Jacob, promised blessing to all nations through their seed. God's faithfulness to these ancient promises, despite Israel's unfaithfulness, demonstrates the unconditional nature of His covenant commitment. Jesus's coming fulfills these centuries-old promises.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding salvation as covenant fulfillment change our view of its source?
2. What does God's 'remembering' His covenant teach about His faithfulness?
3. How does recognizing salvation as 'mercy' affect our response to it?

Interlinear Text

ποιῆσαι	ἔλεος	μετὰ	τῶν	πατέρων	ἡμῶν	καὶ
To perform	the mercy	promised to	G3588	fathers	our	and
G4160	G1656	G3326		G3962	G2257	G2532
μνησθῆναι	διαθήκης	ἁγίας	αὐτοῦ			
to remember	covenant	holy	G846			
G3415	G1242	G40				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:45 (Covenant): And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

Leviticus 26:42 (Covenant): Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

Micah 7:20 (Grace): Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Romans 11:28 (Parallel theme): As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

Ezekiel 16:60 (Covenant): Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant.

Genesis 26:4 (Parallel theme): And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Genesis 28:14 (Parallel theme): And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

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