

Luke 1:73

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

Analysis

Zacharias references 'the oath which he sware to our father Abraham,' highlighting the solemnity of God's covenant commitment. Divine oaths add nothing to God's truthfulness but accommodate human weakness by using humanity's highest form of commitment. The reference to Abraham's specific oath likely recalls Genesis 22:16-18, where God swore by Himself (since none greater exists, Heb 6:13) to bless Abraham's seed. This oath demonstrates the immutability of God's purpose (Heb 6:17-18)—salvation rests on God's unbreakable promise, not human faithfulness. The covenant's foundation in divine oath provides absolute assurance that God will accomplish what He promised.

Historical Context

After Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac, God confirmed His covenant with an oath (Gen 22:16-18). This oath established unconditional commitment to bless Abraham's seed, fulfilled ultimately in Christ who is the seed (Gal 3:16) through whom all nations receive blessing.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why did God condescend to swear an oath when His word is already certain?
2. How does God's oath to Abraham provide assurance of salvation?
3. What does it mean that God swore by Himself to keep His covenant?

Interlinear Text

ὅρκον	ὅν	ὤμοσεν	πρὸς	Αβραὰμ	τὸν	πατέρα	ἡμῶν
The oath	which	he sware	to	Abraham	<small>G3588</small>	father	our
G3727	G3739	G3660	G4314	G11		G3962	G2257

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:9 (References Abraham): Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

Deuteronomy 7:8 (Parallel theme): But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Jeremiah 11:5 (Parallel theme): That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD.

Deuteronomy 7:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: