

Luke 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Analysis

The eighth-day circumcision demonstrates Jesus's full entrance into covenant community and submission to the Law He came to fulfill (Matt 5:17). His naming 'JESUS' ('Yeshua'—Yahweh saves) fulfills Gabriel's instruction (Luke 1:31) and declares His mission. The name's meaning—'He shall save his people from their sins' (Matt 1:21)—defines His purpose. That the name was 'so named of the angel before he was conceived' emphasizes divine determination of His identity and mission. Jesus's circumcision shows He was 'born under the law' (Gal 4:4) to redeem those under the law. His submission to covenant requirements models obedience while accomplishing what the Law foreshadowed.

Historical Context

Circumcision on the eighth day fulfilled Abrahamic covenant requirements (Gen 17:12) and identified Jesus with His people Israel. The naming at circumcision formalized what Gabriel had announced, publicly declaring Jesus's identity and saving purpose to all witnesses.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's circumcision teach about His identification with His people?
2. How does the name 'Jesus' define His mission and identity?
3. Why was it necessary for Jesus to fulfill the Law He came to replace?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὅτε ἐπλήσθησαν ἡμέραι ὀκτὼ τῇ περιτεμεῖν
And when were accomplished days eight which for the circumcising
G2532 G3753 G4130 G2250 G3638 G3588 G4059

τῇ παιδίου, καὶ κληθὲν τῇ ὄνομα αὐτόν Ἰησοῦς
which of the child And was called which name he JESUS
G3588 G3813 G2532 G2564 G3588 G3686 G846 G2424

τῇ κληθὲν ὑπὸ τῇ ἀγγέλου πρὸ τῇ συλληφθῆναι
which was called of which the angel before which was conceived
G3588 G2564 G5259 G3588 G32 G4253 G3588 G4815

αὐτόν ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ
he in which the womb
G846 G1722 G3588 G2836

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 12:3 (Parallel theme): And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Genesis 17:12 (Parallel theme): And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

Luke 1:31 (References Jesus): And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:59 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

Matthew 1:25 (References Jesus): And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 1:21 (Sin): And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 3:15 (References Jesus): And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Philippians 2:8 (Parallel theme): And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

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