

Luke 2:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Analysis

Then took he him up in his arms (καὶ αὐτὸς ἐδέξατο αὐτὸν εἰς τὰς ἀγκάλας, kai autos edexato auto eis tas agkalas)—The Greek verb dechomai means 'to receive' or 'welcome,' suggesting deliberate acceptance. Simeon physically embraces the infant Messiah, a prophetic act symbolizing Israel's longed-for reception of salvation.

And blessed God (εὐλόγησεν τὸν θεόν, eulogēsen ton theon)—Simeon's immediate response is doxology. Having received God's greatest gift, he returns praise. The moment fulfills decades of Spirit-sustained expectation, as the aged prophet cradles the infant King who would cradle him into eternal rest. This tender scene captures the intimacy between faith's patience and promise's fulfillment.

Historical Context

Jewish blessing (berakah) was the standard response to recognizing God's acts. Simeon's public blessing in the temple courts would have attracted attention, as elderly men didn't typically embrace strangers' infants. His prophetic authority, recognized by regular temple worshippers, lent weight to his declaration.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Simeon's immediate blessing of God teach about proper response to answered prayer?
2. How does Simeon's physical embrace of Jesus picture faith's personal reception of Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ αὐτοῦ, ἐδέξατο αὐτοῦ, εἰς τὰς ἀγκάλας αὐτοῦ,
Then him took he him in G3588 arms him
G2532 G846 G1209 G846 G1519 G43 G846

καὶ εὐλόγησεν τὸν Θεὸν καὶ εἶπεν
Then blessed G3588 God Then said
G2532 G2127 G2316 G2532 G2036

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:64 (References God): And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

Luke 2:20 (References God): And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.