

Luke 2:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Analysis

Simeon prophesies to Mary: 'a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also.' This prediction of Mary's suffering refers primarily to her anguish at Christ's crucifixion (John 19:25-27), where she witnessed her son's horrific death. The Greek 'rhomphaia' (ῥομφαία) denotes a large sword, emphasizing the depth and severity of coming pain. Mary's participation in Christ's suffering begins at the incarnation and climaxes at Calvary. Her willingness to bear this sword demonstrates costly discipleship—following Christ involves suffering, not just blessing.

Historical Context

Simeon spoke these words during Jesus' temple presentation (40 days after birth) as he held the infant Messiah. His prophecy reveals that redemption comes through suffering—the Messiah must suffer, and those closest to Him share that suffering. Mary's sword of sorrow fulfills the suffering servant pattern (Isaiah 53)—the righteous suffer with and for others. This prophecy prepares Mary for the cross, where her maternal love becomes a participation in redemptive suffering. Early Christian tradition saw Mary as the New Eve, faithful where the first Eve failed.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Simeon's prophecy of Mary's suffering prepare us for understanding discipleship's costly nature?
2. What does Mary's willingness to embrace a call involving certain future suffering teach about faithful obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	σοῦ	δὲ	αὐτῆς	τὴν	ψυχὴν	διελεύσεται	ρόμφαία
also	thy own	(Yea	G846	G3588	soul	shall pierce through	a sword
G2532	G4675	G1161			G5590	G1330	G4501

ὅπως	ἄν	ἀποκαλυφθῶσιν	ἐκ	πολλῶν	καρδιῶν
that	G302	may be revealed	of	many	hearts
G3704		G601	G1537	G4183	G2588

διαλογισμοί

the thoughts

G1261

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 11:19 (Parallel theme): For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (Word): And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

