

Luke 2:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Analysis

Luke summarizes Jesus' childhood: 'And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him' (τὸ δὲ παιδίον ηὔξανεν καὶ ἐκραταιοῦτο πληρούμενον σοφίᾳ, καὶ χάρις θεοῦ ἦν ἐπ' αὐτό). The verbs 'auxanō' (ηὔξανεν, grew) and 'krataioō' (ἐκραταιοῦτο, waxed strong) describe normal human development—Jesus experienced genuine childhood, not docetic appearance. The present passive participle 'plēroumenon sophia' (πληρούμενον σοφίᾳ, being filled with wisdom) indicates progressive development, while 'charis theou' (χάρις θεοῦ, grace of God) rested upon Him. This demonstrates the hypostatic union—Jesus' full humanity developed normally while His divine nature remained fully present. He learned as humans learn, yet without sin.

Historical Context

Jesus' childhood in Nazareth was unremarkable by outward appearance—He learned carpentry from Joseph (Mark 6:3), studied Torah, participated in synagogue life. The absence of miracle accounts from these years (apocryphal gospels notwithstanding) emphasizes normal development. His humanity was not diminished by deity; rather, deity expressed itself through authentic human experience including growth in wisdom (Luke 2:52). This 18-year 'hidden life' prepared Him for public ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' normal human development teach about the full reality of the incarnation?
2. How should Christ's example of steady growth in wisdom encourage our own spiritual formation?

Interlinear Text

Tὸ δὲ παιδίον ηὔξανεν καὶ ἐκραταιοῦτο πνεύματι,
G3588 And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit
G1161 G3813 G837 G2532 G2901 G4151

πληρούμενον σοφίας· καὶ χάρις θεοῦ ἦν ἐπ' αὐτό^ν
filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him
G4137 G4678 G2532 G5485 G2316 G2258 G1909 G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:52 (References God): And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Luke 1:80 (Spirit): And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

John 1:14 (Grace): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1 Samuel 2:26 (Parallel theme): And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

1 Samuel 3:19 (Parallel theme): And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Psalms 22:9 (Parallel theme): But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.

Luke 2:47 (Parallel theme): And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

1 Samuel 2:18 (Parallel theme): But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

Judges 13:24 (Parallel theme): And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Acts 4:33 (Grace): And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.