

Matthew 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Analysis

The Father's voice declares: 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' This combines Psalm 2:7 (messianic king) and Isaiah 42:1 (suffering servant), defining Jesus' mission as both royal and redemptive. The present tense 'am well pleased' shows eternal satisfaction, not conditional approval based on baptism. This divine affirmation before ministry begins demonstrates grace preceding works.

Historical Context

This is one of three recorded instances of the Father's audible voice in the Gospels (also at Transfiguration and John 12). The public declaration authenticated Jesus before witnesses, confirming His identity as the Messiah. The wording echoes coronation language.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God's pleasure rests on Christ (not your performance) give you security?
2. What does the Father's affirmation teach about Jesus' identity?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-------------------|
| καὶ | ἰδοῦ, | φωνὴ | ἐκ | τῶν | οὐρανῶν | λέγουσα | Οὗτός | |
| And | lo | a voice | from | G3588 | heaven | saying | This | |
| G2532 | G2400 | G5456 | G1537 | | G3772 | G3004 | G3778 | |
| ἐστίν | ὁ | υἱός | μου | ὁ | ἀγαπητός, | ἐν | ᾧ | εὐδόκησα |
| is | G3588 | Son | my | G3588 | beloved | in | whom | I am well pleased |
| G2076 | | G5207 | G3450 | | G27 | G1722 | G3739 | G2106 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:1 (Parallel theme): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Matthew 17:5 (Love): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Psalms 2:7 (Parallel theme): I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

2 Peter 1:17 (Love): For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Mark 9:7 (Love): And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Luke 9:35 (Love): And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Matthew 12:18 (Love): Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

Luke 3:22 (Love): And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Mark 1:11 (Love): And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Colossians 1:13 (Parallel theme): Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

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