

Luke 1:26-38 Ruled by the Lord

When you submit to God's purpose in Christ He elevates you to enjoy Christ's kingdom.

- 1) The exalted Word of God meets you in your lowliness (vv. 26-30).
 - a) Mary's humble estate
 - b) God's grace
- 2) God elevates you by your identification with Christ (v. 38).
 - a) God's Word is efficacious.
 - b) The glory of the Master is shared with the household, including the servants.
- 3) The glory of Christ, which you can enjoy by humble faith, is incomparable (vv. 31-35)
 - a) He is Jesus—The Savior
 - b) He is Great—unqualified importance
 - c) He is the Son of the Most High—unique relation to God
 - i) Son—functionally as King
 - ii) Most High—Luke is very concerned with how we measure status. Human societies have vain standards of honor and shame. God's kingdom has the true standards of honor and shame.
 - d) He is the Heir of David's Throne—Eternal King
 - i) Highest Authority
 - ii) Eternal Dominion
 - e) He is Holy—cherished by God the Father
 - f) He is the Son of God—ontologically (in the essence of His being; nature) as LORD (Yahweh)
- 4) God assures you that His Word will not fail, therefore you will fulfill His purpose for your life by humble faith (vv. 36-38).
 - a) Translation of v. 37:
 - i) ESV (and most English translations) translate *rhema* as “thing,” resulting in “nothing will be impossible with God”
 - ii) *rhema* commonly refers to a word or words (message); when it is translated “thing” it is usually referring to an action, event, or thought; the distinction between “word” and “thing” in this sense may be less distinct when referring to God's actions since He effects “things” by His word
 - iii) The context is concerned with God's word, announced through Gabriel, and written in Israel's Scripture.
 - iv) Mary's response is, “Let it be to me according to your *rhema* (word).”
 - v) Proposed interpretive translation: “No word whatsoever that God has spoken will be impossible for you with God at your side.”
 - vi) The omnipotence of God is assumed/implicit, but the focus of the verse is on how Mary can fulfill God's purpose, because His Word will be fulfilled and He will be with her.
 - b) Mary responds with humble submission to God's Word.

Do you know what God has spoken concerning you in His Word? How will that Word be fulfilled in your life? Do you trust the al-mighty power of God to effect His purpose in your life? Have you submitted to God's purpose in Christ?