

Song of Elisabeth to Mary
Luke 1:39-45

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Text:

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39. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,

40. Where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elisabeth.

41. When Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

43. But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44. As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

45. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Commentary:

Mary's Visit to Elisabeth

Luke 1:39, At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea.

I. Having heard the news from Gabriel that she was to be the physical mother of the Christ child and that Elisabeth her relative had been blessed with expectancy, Mary immediately with haste left Nazareth for the hill country of Judea (Ephraim) where Hannah and Elkanah had lived.

- A. Mary and Elisabeth formed a mutual support group.
- B. Mary made two (2) trips to Judea within nine (9) months, one near conception and one at the time of delivery.
- C. The city in which Elizabeth and Zechariah lived is thought to have been Juttah although Hebron is also a possibility.
- D. Juttah was one (1) of the forty-eight (48) cities allotted to the priests, was in the hill country of Judaea, and agrees with early church tradition.

Luke 1:40-41, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elisabeth. When Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- I. Mary arrived at the residence of Elisabeth and Zechariah.
 - A. Mary greeted them and told them of what Gabriel had told her of Elisabeth's pregnancy and her being chosen as the mother of Jesus.
 - B. When Elisabeth heard the news her babe leaped in her womb and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - C. Unborn baby John, by leaping, evidenced his regard for Mary's child as his superior and his own role as a prophet.

Luke 1:42, In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

I. Elisabeth exclaimed in a loud voice that Mary was the most blessed of all women and Mary's child would be the most blessed of all children ever born on earth.

II. These words would certainly have been an encouragement to Mary.

III. Mary was most blessed because of her child Jesus. Elisabeth was the first human except Mary to confess belief in the deity of Jesus.

Luke 1:43, But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

I. Elisabeth exclaimed, "How fortunate I am to be visited by the mother of the Christ child!"

Luke 1:44, As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

I. Elisabeth related to Mary what she had experienced upon learning that Mary would give birth to Jesus, the Son of God; that is, "The baby in my womb leaped for joy."

Luke 1:45, Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished."

I. Mary is to be blessed (happy) because she believed the promises made to her by the Lord God through Gabriel the archangel.

II. God's wondrous works are eternally worthy of praise.

A. Psalm 19:1-4, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

III. Mary and Elisabeth rejoiced with each other and with God.

A. Many find little joy in the company of others.

B. Romans 15:13, May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. 1 Peter 1:8, Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

D. Psalm 118:24, This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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Questions

1. _____ and _____ lived in the hill country of _____ . _____ went to visit them.
2. When _____ heard what _____ had to say, the baby leaped in _____'s womb. _____ was filled with the _____.
3. _____ in a loud voice exclaimed, “_____ are you among _____, and _____ is the _____ you will bear.”
4. “_____ is she who has _____ what the _____ has said to her.”
5. Mary went to see Elisabeth who lived in the territory allotted to the tribe of _____, the ancient home of _____'s parents, _____ and _____.
6. _____ and _____ formed a _____.
7. _____ made _____ trips to Judaea within a _____ month period, one near _____ and one at the time of _____.
8. _____ and _____ lived, some believe, in either _____ or _____.

9. _____ was one of the _____ cities assigned in the Old Testament to _____.

10. _____ wondrous works are eternally _____ of _____. _____ and _____ rejoiced with _____ and _____.