

The Magnificat of Mary

Luke 1:46-56

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Text:

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**46. And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord
47. and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48. for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From
now on all generations will call me blessed,
49. for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his
name.
50. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to
generation.
51. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered
those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
52. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up
the humble.
53. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich
away empty.
54. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful
55. to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our
father.”
56. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then
returned home.**

Introduction:

I. Mary’s praise, the Magnificat, reminds us of Hannah’s prayer.

**A. 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart
rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My
mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your**

deliverance. There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seals them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; upon them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.

B. Luke 19:40, "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

II. The Magnificat (Mary's Song) has three (3) sections:

A. The magnification or glorification of God.

B. Personal thanksgiving and celebration.

C. Assurance and hope.

III. God has been working from day one for the good of his people and he will continue to work for the good of his people until time shall be no more.

The Magnificat

The Virgin's (Mary's) Hymn

Luke 1:46-48, And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed.

I. Mary responded to the exuberance of Elizabeth by saying:

A. “My soul glorifies (magnifies) the Lord,” praises the Lord.

B. “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

C. “God has looked with favor upon the low, humble condition of his handmaid” and did not allow this to keep her from being chosen as the mother of Jesus.”

D. Mary realized that, because of this, all generations would recognize her as most blessed of all women ever born.

E. Mary realized the earth shaking nature of these events.

II. Mary praised God for the blessings God had bestowed upon her.

Luke 1:49-50, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

I. Mary said:

A. Almighty God has done great things for me.

B. God's name is holy, hallowed.

C. God's mercy is extended to all who fear, respect him throughout all generations.

II. Mary here extols the power, holiness and mercy of God.

III. Some of what is said by Mary sounds very nationalistic.

Luke 1:51-53, He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

I. Mary further stated that:

A. God showed strength (has performed mighty deeds) with his arm.

B. God has scattered the proud including wicked rulers who imagine and execute evil deeds contrary to the Lord's will.

C. God has exalted them of low degree, those in humble, poor situations in life such as Mary.

D. The hungry has been filled with good things by a merciful God.

E. God sent away empty the proud wicked rich.

II. The teachings of Jesus Christ would produce a social and religious revolution.

Luke 1:54-55, He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our father.”

I. Mary concluded:

A. God has given help to Israel his servant.

B. God has extended mercy to his people as he before had spoken, prophesied . . . to Abraham and his seed forever.

II. Mary, a young 15 or 16 year old teenager at the time, may not have understood everything she was saying.

A. She spoke as God gave her utterance.

B. 1 Peter 1:10-12, Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Luke 1:56, Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

I. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months.

A. Mary made this trip shortly after conception.

B. When Mary returned to Nazareth she was three months pregnant.

II. Elisabeth, when Mary returned to Galilee, was nine months pregnant, fast approaching delivery.

A. The birth of John the Baptist was fast approaching.

B. The Messiah's forerunner was born six months before Jesus was born.

Conclusion:

I. Following a three (3) month visit with Elizabeth, the birth of John, now being imminent, Mary returned home to Nazareth being at that time three months pregnant. Luke 1:56.

II. Those who truly follow Jesus are blessed, even more blessed than Mary.

A. Luke 11:27-28, As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." But he said, "Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the words of God, and keep it."

B. Acts 1:14, They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

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Questions

1. _____ said, "My _____ glorifies the _____ and my _____ rejoices in _____ my Savior, for he has been _____ of the _____ state of his _____."

2. ". . . all _____ will call me _____, for the _____ has done _____ for me - _____ is his _____."

3. God has filled the _____ with _____ things but has sent the _____ away empty.

4. _____ stayed with _____ for about _____ months and then returned _____. At that time _____ the _____'s birth was imminent and _____'s birth was _____ months away.

5. Mary Magnificat reminds us of _____'s prayer who was the mother of _____.

6. Mary's song has three parts; viz.,

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

7. Mary said:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

8. Mary further stated that:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

9. The teachings of _____ would
produce a _____ and _____.

10. Those who truly follow _____ are _____,
even more _____ than _____.
“_____ is the _____ who gave you birth and
_____ you. _____ rather are those who
_____ the _____ of _____ and
_____ it.”