

“Mary Visits Elizabeth”

Luke 1:39-45

May 30, 2021

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40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

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

42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

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- Mary wastes no time:

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- “hurry” – *σπουδη* – speed, eagerness, haste.

- Mary is motivated. She has all of the incentive in the world to see Elizabeth:

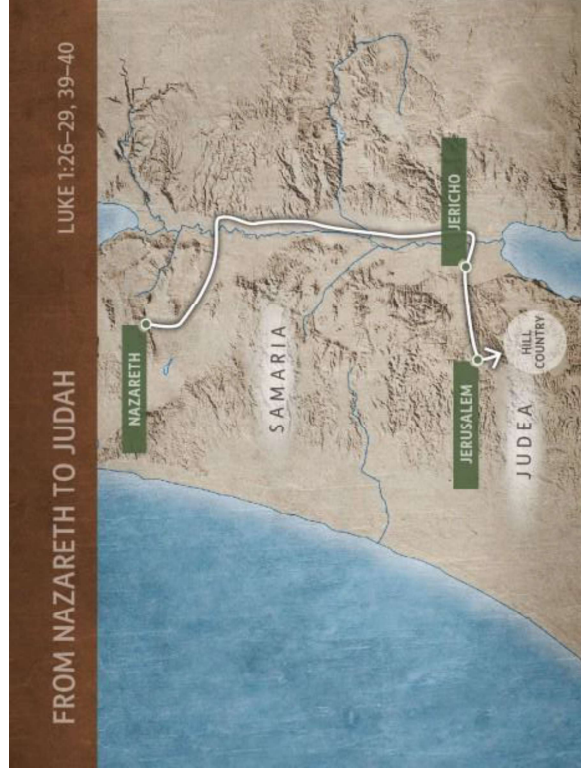
- To see a cousin.

- For confirmation that all of this is true: 1. her own encounter with an angel. 2. the message of what was to take place, 3. a miraculous pregnancy. 4. How are we going to handle this?

- Mary travels an approx. 80 mile trip. Companion? In a caravan? On a donkey?

- Hills. Rough and rugged. Dangerous.

- Outskirts of Jerusalem is about 2,474 feet above sea level. Nazareth is at 1,138 feet. This means Mary had to trek uphill nearly 1,336 feet in elevation!



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- How does Mary contain the excitement?

- Mary is motivated. She has all of the incentive in the world to see Elizabeth:

- To see her cousin.

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- Mary enters the house and greets Elizabeth.

- *απαλαξισμαι* – embrace, salute, greet

Note: Fellowship with other believers is critical as we travel through life.

Think of what the two of them discussed -

- The grace of God.
- The providence of God.
- God's covenant promises.
- God's faithfulness.
- Gabriel.
- The pregnancies.
- The future.
- The joy of it all.

What a wonderful time of fellowship!

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

- Immediately there is a response to Mary's greeting.
- The baby leaps in the womb.

Luke 1:15

15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

- The baby is really responding, not to Mary but to the baby who is in Mary's womb – the Messiah.
- So John is already pointing the way and drawing attention to the Messiah. This will be his ministry.
- **Questions:** Was John regenerated while still in Elizabeth's womb? Would he have had this response if he was not regenerate? Can you be filled with the Spirit and be unregenerate?
- The baby is controlled, Elizabeth is controlled, and in 1:67 Zacharias is controlled. – at this point you have a Spirit controlled family.

Gen 25:21-23

21 Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

23 The Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb;

And two peoples will be separated from your body;

And one people shall be stronger than the other;

And the older shall serve the younger."

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Filling of the Spirit –

- Filling with the Spirit prior to Pentecost was not permanent.
- **"Filling"** – under the influence.
- What fills you controls you.
- What fills you will be physically seen. Here the baby leaps for joy (the fruit of the Spirit).
- Note:** Luke uses the term **"baby"**.
- Luke is treating this child in the womb as a **person**.
- He uses the word **"baby"** which he will later use for Jesus in the manger.
- He uses the word joy, which is what **persons** feel.
- He uses the phrase **"filled with the Spirit"** which is what God does to **persons**.
- He simply assumes he is dealing with a human **person** in the womb.

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- Elizabeth recognized the unique blessedness of Mary.
- Mary was given the greatest privilege because she would bear the greatest child.
- Elizabeth's baby would be great, Mary's would be greater.
- No envy, no jealousy here.
- Elizabeth has her heart right. She is righteous. She knows the Word. She is a mature believer. She is humble.
- Elizabeth is here to pronounce blessing on Mary and the fruit of Mary's womb.
- Again notice Mary is "blessed among women", not above women.
- There is no elevation of Mary.

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43 "And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?"

- Elizabeth is stunned that this is happening to her.
- Mary would come and visit Elizabeth, bearing the Savior of the world.
- Notice Elizabeth personalizes it – "the mother of **my** Lord".
- Luke used the title "Lord" 95 times out of its 166 occurrences in the Synoptic Gospels.
- Be very careful with this phrase. This verse is not calling Mary "the mother of God".
- God does not have a mother. Nobody is God's mother. God has existed from all eternity.
- This is a blasphemous perversion of elevating Mary above God.
- The name "Lord" does not equal the Godhead. Mary is not the mother of God the Father nor the Holy Spirit.
- Mary was the mother of the man, Jesus.
- Mary is finite – she was born and she died.
- Mary is also not "My Lady" or "Our Lady".
- Even though Jesus was but a baby in Mary's womb, to Elizabeth He was her Lord.

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- Elizabeth confirms to Mary the response of her baby to the presence of Mary and her baby.
- So both Elizabeth and her baby have supernatural responses which were energized by the Holy Spirit.
- The baby has a physical reaction outwardly which comes from the joy of the Holy Spirit inwardly.
- John is already starting his ministry.

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- Why is Mary blessed? Because she believed God's Word.
- Do you want to be blessed? Believe God's Word!
- If Mary, a teenager, can believe God for her miraculous pregnancy in spite of all of the consequences and obstacles facing her, then we can believe and trust God for the things we face in our lives.
- Mary has received confirmation from her visit to Elizabeth in 3 ways:
 1. From the testimony of Elizabeth's own pregnancy.
 2. From the timing of the "leaping in the womb."
 3. From the proclamation of blessing on Mary by Elizabeth for Mary's role in the birth of the Messiah and her belief in God's Word.

Living the Christian life is not
a scramble
to make it to the top above everyone else,
but rather
a scramble to make it to the bottom
below everyone else.