



“Mary’s Declaration of Praise To God”

Part 1

Luke 1:46-50

June 6, 2021

Luke 1:46-50

46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

50 "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

7 OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LIFE OF MARY:

1. Mary is saturated with God’s Word.

- Mary makes reference, in her praise to God, to these Scriptures: Gen. 30, Ps. 25, Ps. 34, Ps. 103, Ps. 22, Ps. 44, Ps. 89, Ps. 111, Ps. 126, Ps. 136, Ps. 147, 1 Sam 2, 2 Sam., Isaiah 45, Job 12, 15, 38.

1 Sam 2:1-10

1 Then Hannah prayed and said,

2 "My heart exults in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord; My mouth is open against my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation.

3 There is no one holy like the Lord, indeed; there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

4 Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.

5 The bows of the mighty are shattered, But the feeble girl on strength.

6 Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry cease to hunger. Even the barren has borne many children, And she who has many children languishes.

7 The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

8 The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts.

9 He raises the poor from the dust. He lifts the needy from the ash heap; To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, And He set the world on them.

10 He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are slanted in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail.

11 Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered; And He will make the ends of the earth. And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed."

Luke 1:46-57

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52 "He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

53 "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever."

7 OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LIFE OF MARY:

1. Mary is saturated with God’s Word.

- Mary, in her praise to God, makes or alludes to these Scriptures: Gen. 30, Ps. 25, Ps. 34, Ps. 103, Ps. 22, Ps. 44, Ps. 89, Ps. 111, Ps. 126, Ps. 136, Ps. 147, 1 Sam 2, 2 Sam., Isaiah 45, Job 12, 15, 38.

- Mary’s familiarity with the Old Testament shows her love for God and His Word.
- How was that possible?
 1. God placed that love for His Word in Mary.
 2. Think of Mary’s life in Nazareth.
 3. Was it her parents God used? (No mention in Scripture – R.C. says they are Joachim and Anne) Mentor? Or Mary on her own?

- Her memory was a storehouse of Scripture.
- Mary is not speaking sentimentally or emotionally here.
- Mary is praying Scripture.
- If you have Scripture stored in your heart you will have all of the words you need to praise God, adore God, thank God, make requests, to intercede for others.
- That will not carry you through difficult times.
- Consider what Mary is facing:
 - Being ostracized from friends and family.
 - Possibly losing her husband.
 - Accusations, suspicions, and perhaps losing her life for adultery.

But her knowledge of Scripture enabled her to rejoice and praise God in spite of her circumstances.

46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,

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- 2. Mary desires for all of the glory to go to God alone.**
 - Mary in verses 46-50 is giving her personal praise to God for what he has done for her.
 - Mary has now come to the full realization that all that was said by the angel Gabriel is true.
 - Her response is to praise God with her whole being.
 - Verses 46 and 47 are synonymous parallelism, so that the two expressions are conveying the same basic idea.
 - Difference between “soul” and “spirit”:
 - All living humans have souls. A soul is the life of a person.
- Gen 2:7-8**
- 7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (soul - נֶפֶשׁ) - nephesh).
 - All living humans have spirits BUT they are either dead or alive.

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- Mary is rejoicing in God her Savior.
 - She is NOT the Savior.
 - **Note:** She does not say “my helper”, or “my enabler”, or “my provider”, or “my sustainer”, or “my strength”
 - **Mary needs a Savior** more than anything else, just like we do.
 - She was not “immaculately conceived” – meaning, from the moment of her conception Mary was by God’s grace ‘kept free from all taint of Original Sin.’ That comes from the land of “make believe” or “fantasy”. The Bible calls that a myth (μῦθος – muthos) - unfactual stories based on tradition.
- 2 Tim 4:4**
- 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
 - Mary was a sinner like everyone else born into this world. Think about it - if she was sinless, why would God be her Savior? Why would she need a Savior?
- Rom 5:12**
- 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —
 - It was the Savior living inside her womb who would save her from her sin – in that she rejoiced.

48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

- 3. Mary has a heart of humility.**
 - “humble state”
 - ταπεινωσις - low degree, low on the social scale, socially powerless, having little value in the eyes of men.
 - A poor person’s sacrifice they would bring to the temple later.
 - She lived poor conditions, perhaps in poverty. Nazareth was a town that was known for being poor.
 - Betrothed to a poor carpenter. He made yokes to put on oxen. He made plows. He made staves and sticks, made tables and chairs, maybe even did some masonry work, just a common laborer.
 - Elizabeth was the first generation to count Mary blessed -
 - Luke 1:42** - “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”
 - Lk 1:45** - “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”

46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,

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- Both soul and spirit here refer to the deep inner life of Mary.
- She is responding to God, because of what He has done for her.
- “exalts” = magnify – to make large for all to see.
- She wants all to see that God is her Lord – the sovereign ruler in her life to whom she bows and submits.
- Lordship is either something to rejoice in (believer) or be frightened of (unbeliever).
- Mary rejoices in her spirit because her spirit has been made alive- she is a believer.
- **Note:** The word “exalt” is a present tense verb – “ongoing continual action.”

Ps 34:1

34 I will bless the Lord at all times;

His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Ps 103:1

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Luke 1:46-50

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Ps 136:23

23 Who remembered us in our low estate,

For His lovingkindness is everlasting,

Gen 30:12-13

12 Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

13 Then Leah said, "Happy am I! For women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

- Mary thinks to herself:

- I am an absolute nobody.
- I am just a humble maidservant.
- I am a sinner.
- God who is holy and righteous is blessing me? How can this be?
- God is choosing to bless this nobody, an unworthy sinner.

- It overwhelms Mary and staggers her to think that God would choose her to bear the Messiah.

- And that all future generations are going to look back at her and remember the unique blessing that God gave to Mary.

- So this is a story of how God blessed a nobody.

- We are all nobodies that God has chosen and has blessed.

- God takes nothing and makes something (like creation).

“ . . . let us call her blessed. We don't make her a goddess and kneel before her, but we do need to call her blessed. It was her glorious privilege to be the mother of the Son of God, to bring Him into the world. We should not play it down, but we should not play it up either. She was a wonderful person, and it was no accident that she was chosen by God. It was His definite decision, and God makes no mistakes.”

- J. Vernon McGee

"A man has just as much Christianity as he has humility."

Luke 1:46-50

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4. Mary has an attitude of thankfulness.

1. Mary is thankful for 3 things:
 - The great things that God has done for her.
 - Saved her.
 - Chosen her for a unique blessing.
 - Sent Gabriel to appear to her.
 - Overshadowed her with the Holy Spirit.
 - Impregnated her with the Messiah,
 - Confirmed that it is all true through Elizabeth and her baby.
2. **Ps 126:3**
 - 3 The Lord has done great things for us; We are glad.
 - God's holiness.
 - Holiness is what makes God, God.
3. **Ps 111:9**
 - 9 Holy and awesome is His name.
4. **Rev 4:8**
 - 8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."
 - Holiness is why we can trust God to be faithful.

49 "For the **Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.**

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3. God's mercy.
 - Mary is thankful for God's mercy:
 1. Without it she or none of us would exist.
 2. That mercy extends to each generation.
 3. But is only for those who fear Him.

Lam 3:22-23

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His **mercies** never fail.

23 They are new every morning;

Ps 103:17

17 But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who **fear Him**,

"Let us rise from our beds every morning with a deep conviction that we are debtors and that every day we have more mercies than we deserve."

- J.C. Ryle