

## **“God’s Spirit Fills My Soul!”**

**Luke 1:39-56**

Now Mary arose in those days & went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, *“Blessed are you among women and Blessed is the Fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of My Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe Leaped in my womb for Joy! Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord!”* And Mary said: *“My Soul Magnifies the Lord, and My Spirit Has Rejoiced in God My Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me Blessed. For He Who is Mighty has done Great Things for me, and Holy is His Name. His Mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His Arm; and He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His Servant Israel, in remembrance of His Mercy, as He spoke to our Fathers, to Abraham and to His Seed forever!”* And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months & then returned to her house. **Luke 1:39-56 (NKJV)**

We should recognize that this story concerning the greeting of two related pregnant women, Elizabeth, and Mary, conforms to a unique Lukan format that is repeated 4 different times by the gospel writer in 6 consecutive passages concerning the events surrounding that First Christmas. Here in this passage we see the **Sign Fulfilled** that was given by the Archangel Gabriel to Mary concerning her cousin, Elizabeth and the **Evidence of Fulfillment** followed by Mary’s **Response of Praise** concluding the second of these four occurrences:

**See Handout I**

### **“Luke’s Narrative Story Patterns - Birth of Jesus”**

#### **Luke’s Historical Acts of Faith/Song of Praise Pattern**

<b><u>Promise of God:</u></b>	Mary Would Conceive Aa Son, Who Would Be Both Son Of Man & Son Of God	<b>Luke 1:31-33 &amp; 35</b>
<b><u>Character:</u></b>	Mary	<b>Luke 1:27</b>
<b><u>Sign Fulfilled:</u></b>	Elizabeth Was Indeed Six Months Pregnant Upon Mary’s Arrival	<b>Luke 1:41 &amp; 44</b>
<b><u>Evidence of Fulfillment:</u></b>	Unborn John the Baptist Bears Witness To The Unborn Son Of God, Jesus Christ, By Leaping in Elizabeth, His Mother’s Womb	<b>Luke 1:41</b>
	Elizabeth Blesses Mary	<b>Luke 1:42-45</b>
<b><u>Response of Praise:</u></b>	Song Of Mary	<b>Luke 1:46-55</b>

Several of the circumstances surrounding the praises of Elizabeth and Mary can also be compared and contrasted to the events of the two children, Isaac, John, & Jesus:

**See Handout II**

### **“Luke’s Comparison of Beginnings: Isaac, John, & Jesus”**

Luke also gives us a few other details concerning the events and the timing of these events in the prior passage of his recorded gospel and in this story:

### Significant Events Relationships & Timing According To Luke

#### 1) Elizabeth Went Into Seclusion About Five Months After She Conceived John

*Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; & she hid herself five months, saying, "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people!"* Luke 1:24-25

### Significant Events Relationships & Timing According To Luke

#### 2) Mary Was Related To Her Betrothed Husband Joseph Descendant Of Tribe Of Judah

*"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David."* Luke 1:26-27a

This meant that by Mary's union with the tribe of Judah through her betrothed husband Joseph would make her Son, Jesus a King, according to the family of David, which was necessary for Him to fulfill God's Promise that He would be our long-awaited Messiah/Savior!

#### Jesus Is Our Eternal King Of Kings

*"And behold, you will conceive in your womb & bring forth a Son & shall call His name Jesus. He will be great & will be called the Son of the Highest; & the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of His kingdom there will be no end!"* Luke 1:31-33

### Significant Events Relationships & Timing According To Luke

#### 3) Mary Was Related To Elizabeth Descendant Of The Tribe Of Levi

*"Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age ..."* Luke 1:36-37

#### Jesus Is Our Eternal High Priest

*And Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread & wine; now He was a Priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram & said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of Heaven & Earth; & Blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And Abram gave Him a tenth of all he had.* Genesis 14:18-20 (Hebrews 5:10, 6:20, & 7:1)

This meant that by her family lineage according to the tribe of Levi, the priests of Israel, her Son, Jesus, would be also be a Priest of God, not just any Priest but the Eternal Great High Priest of God!

See Handout III

*"Jesus Christ: Eternal High Priest of God"*

### Significant Events Relationships & Timing According To Luke

#### 4) Mary Went To See For Herself The Sign Given To Her By The Archangel Gabriel

*"Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; & this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible!" ...*

*... Now Mary arose in those days & went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, & entered the house of Zacharias & greeted Elizabeth.* Luke 1:36-37 & 39-40

### Significant Events Relationships & Timing According To Luke

#### 5) Mary Remained With Zacharias & Elizabeth Three Months Until Elizabeth Gave Birth To John

*Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, & she brought forth a son. When her neighbors & relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. So, it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child...* Luke 1:57-59a

### Significant Events Relationships & Timing According To Luke

#### 6) Mary Returned To Her Hometown Before She Would Have Shown Physically That She Was Also With Child

*And Mary remained with her about three months & returned to her house.* Luke 1:56

## God Is In The Business Of Turning Our Actions, Motivations, & Thinking Upside Down

### Mary & Elizabeth Represent A Changing Of Societal Roles, Standards, & Norms

**1) Roles - Women vs. Men** Prior to this story we have the story of the Archangel Gabriel coming to Mary a lowly and humble young girl in a traditional all male patriarchal society & announcing God has chosen here to do His will & to bring His will to reality by her faithful role as the mother of Jesus!

In Mary's society and religious community, a woman was seldom a person with any authority. Further, if a woman was used for God's purposes or held any position of authority, she was always an older highly respected woman in the community.

**2) Standards - Younger (Child/Servant) vs. Older (Adult/Elder)** Here Mary starts out greeting her elder and family relation, Elizabeth in a respectful and normal manner but suddenly the tables are reversed, and Elizabeth begins give honor to a young girl of only 13 or 14 years of age.

If God's only Son can make the decision to condescend from His eternal right to reign on His throne and put aside everything to come to earth as one of us; than should we not also expect that business as usual in our world would also be challenged by His Incarnation through Mary!

**3) Norms - Women Announcing The Good News Of The Gospel Before & Alongside Men** God allowed both Elizabeth and Mary two righteous women of their day who longed for the consolation of Israel and the whole world to understand through the power of the Holy Spirit & prophecy what He was about to do for the whole world! He was about to announce the Good News first through two women. Then these two women's sons would announce the Good News in person!

The testimony of Elizabeth's unborn son, the last of the Old Testament prophets, is mentioned both by Luke the gospel writer and Elizabeth herself and this acts as a pair of bookends framing and highlighting the words of the Holy Spirit through Elizabeth at this moment of greeting between the two women.

#### Testimony of Elizabeth & Her Unborn Son, John To Mary & Her Unborn Son, Jesus Within A Chiasmata

##### Bookend 1

*"And it happened when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary  
that the babe leaped in her womb; & Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."*

##### Main Body Of Prophetic Praise

Then she spoke out with a loud voice, *"Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit  
of your womb! But why is this granted to me that the mother of My Lord should come to me?  
For indeed as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears."*

##### Bookend 2

*"The babe leaped in my womb for joy!"*

#### Transitional Prophecy Of Elizabeth To Mary's Song Of Praise

*"Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment  
of those things which were told her from the Lord!"*

#### Mary Responds In A Song Of Praise Within A 7-Fold Chiasmata Mary's Song Of Praise Is Very Similar To David's Songs Of Praise

In Psalms 8, 33, 47, 100, 135 & 136

But Also, A Similarity To Others Like

**Moses, Miriam, Deborah, Asaph, & Hannah**

#### Mary's Song / Psalm Of Praise Has Three Unique Patterns Embedded Within It

**1) Seven Sets Of Parallel Sentences (Doublets)**

**2) A Shift From The Focus On Mary**

**To The Focus On Israel & Then To A Focus On The World**

**3) A Shift In World Order**

**From Kingdom Of Mankind In Satan To Kingdom Of God In Christ!**

**Mary's Song Or Psalm Of Praise Has Three Unique Patterns Embedded Within It.**

**1) Seven Sets Of Parallel Sentences (Doublets)**

**Mary Sang,**

<b>A)</b>	<b>"My soul magnifies the Lord</b>	<b>v 46b</b>
<b>A<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"</b>	<b>v 47</b>
<b>B)</b>	<b>"For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant</b>	<b>v 48a</b>
<b>B<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed!"</b>	<b>v 48b</b>
<b>C)</b>	<b>"For He who is mighty has done great things for me</b>	<b>v 49</b>
<b>C<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation!"</b>	<b>v 50</b>
<b>D)</b>	<b>"He has shown strength with His arm</b>	<b>v 51a</b>
<b>D<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts!"</b>	<b>v 51b</b>
<b>E)</b>	<b>"He has put down the mighty from their thrones</b>	<b>v 52a</b>
<b>E<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>(He has) exalted the lowly!"</b>	<b>v 52b</b>
<b>F)</b>	<b>"He has filled the hungry with good things</b>	<b>v 53a</b>
<b>F<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>(He has) sent the rich away empty!"</b>	<b>v 53b</b>
<b>G)</b>	<b>"He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy</b>	<b>v 54</b>
<b>G<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham &amp; to his seed forever!"</b>	<b>v 55</b>

**Mary's Song Or Psalm Of Praise Has Three Unique Patterns Embedded Within It.**

**2) A Shift From The Focus On Mary To The Focus On Israel & Then To A Focus On The World**

<u><b>Mary</b></u>	<u><b>Concern of God</b></u>	<u><b>Israel/World</b></u>
v 48	"Lowly/Meek/Humble"	v 52
v 48	"His Servant"	v 54
vs 48 & 50	"Regarded & Remembered" "Blessing & Mercy"	v 54
v 50	"Perpetual Mercy of God"	v 55
v 51	"Strong Arm of God"	v 51
v 53	"He Fills The Hungry & The Poor"	v 53

**Mary's Song / Psalm Of Praise Has Three Unique Patterns Embedded Within It**

**3) A Shift In World Order**

**From Kingdom Of Mankind In Satan To Kingdom Of God In Christ!**

**Q**

**"What Is Happening During This Important Shift Of Power & Kingdom Dominion?"**

**A**

**First A Great Tension Exists Between**

**1) The Way The World Should Be Operating Since Its Inception**

**Vs.**

**2) God's Intervention In The World In The Past In The Old Testament**

**Vs.**

**3) God's Intervention In The Person Of His Son, Jesus Christ In The New Testament**

**This Shift In World Order Is Highlighted By An Internal Chiasmata  
(Verses 50-55)**

D)	<i>“He has shown strength with His arm</i>	v 51a
D <sup>1</sup> )	<i>He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts!”</i>	v 51b
E)	<i>“He has put down the mighty from their thrones</i>	v 52a
E <sup>1</sup> )	<i>(He has) exalted the lowly!”</i>	v 52b
F)	<i>“He has filled the hungry with good things</i>	v 53a
F <sup>1</sup> )	<i>(He has) sent the rich away empty!”</i>	v 53b
G)	<i>“He has helped His Servant Israel, in remembrance of His Mercy</i>	v 54
G <sup>1</sup> )	<i>as He spoke to our Fathers, to Abraham and to His Seed forever!”</i>	v 55

**This Shift In World Order Is Highlighted Then By A Chiasmata Withing A Chiasmata**

**Bookend 1**

<sup>50</sup> **“And His Mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation!**

<sup>51</sup> **He has shown Strength with His Arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts!**

**A** <sup>52a</sup> **He has put down the mighty from their thrones,**

**A1** <sup>52b</sup> **& He has exalted the lowly!**

**B<sup>1</sup>** <sup>53a</sup> **He has filled the hungry with good things,**

**B** <sup>53b</sup> **& the rich He has sent away empty!**

**Bookend 2**

<sup>54</sup> **He has Helped His Servant Israel, in remembrance of His Mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> **As He Spoke to our Fathers, to Abraham & to His Seed forever!”**

**4) Mary Proclaims That God’s Relationship With His People Has A Triune Character!**

**It Is Characterized As A Relationship Of God’s: Care, Grace, & Love**

**1) God Has Always Been On The Side Of His Own: The Humble, Meek & Lowly!**

**2) God Has Always Acted On Behalf Of His Own: Removing The Proud, Haughty, & Mighty!**

**3) God Has Finally Acted Directly Himself: Giving Us His Only Son, Jesus Our Lord!**

God has always longed to have an abiding relationship with us since the day He created us! It was us that decided to run away from His love, His care, and His grace!

It was God who condescended in His Son, Jesus Christ to come to our aid even though not one of us, including Mary, was worthy of His sacrifice for us!

Mary declares her own need of mercy, grace and salvation and proclaims to all of us gathered here this morning our need for God’s mercy, grace, and salvation as well.

**Mary’s Testimony To Us!**

**“His Mercy Is On Those Who Fear Him From Generation To Generation!”**

**A Few Questions For Each Of Us This Morning?**

**Q**

**“Am I In Need Of God’s Mercy & Forgiveness This Morning?”**

**Q**

**“Am I In Need Of A New Beginning In My Life  
With A New Relationship In Jesus Christ”**

**Q**

**“Will I Join Mary & Elizabeth In Signing  
The Praises Of Our Creator & Savior?”**

**Q**  
***“Will I Surrender Today, Tomorrow, & Forever,  
As Mary & Elizabeth Did To The Holy Spirit Who Dwells Within Me?”***

**A**  
***“Let Us All This Christmas Season,  
Allow God’s Spirit To Fill Our Souls Completely!”***  
***So That We May Join In Unity With Mary This Morning  
& Say Together In Perfect Unity,***

***“My Soul Magnifies The Lord  
& My Spirit Rejoices In God My Savior!”***