

## **Luke 1:39-55**

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## NOTES:

- 1:39 – “In those days...” –in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, according to 1:26 and 1:56.
- 1:40 – Zechariah was a priest, meaning a direct descendant of Aaron, Moses’s brother. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a direct descendant of Aaron. As the gospel begins, they had no children “because Elizabeth was barren,” and they were “both getting on in years.” One day while Zechariah is on duty in the Temple, the angel Gabriel appears and tells him Elizabeth will bear him a son, to be named John. He seems to doubt, so he’s struck mute until John is born. So, Zechariah would not have been able to speak during this meeting.
- 1:43 – “the mother of my Lord...” – Elizabeth seems to be implicitly saying that the unborn Jesus is her “Lord”
- 1:46-55 – this hymn, the “Magnificat,” is very similar to Hannah’s song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Hannah also did not have children—until she prayed to God and became pregnant with Samuel.