

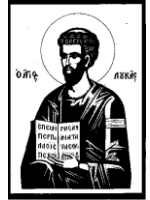


# Luke's Christmas Chronicles

December 2023

## Luke 1:39-56 Mary Magnifies

(sermons: Dec 10)



### **Luke 1: 39-45 Mary Visits Elizabeth**

v.39 *Mary got ready and hurried – to see the only other person who could understand her encounter with the angel and his message*

v.39 *a town in the hill country of Judea – so much nearer to Jerusalem than Nazareth in Galilee*

v.41 *the baby leaped in her womb – which Elizabeth and Mary interpreted as the soon-to-be-born John recognizing Mary's presence and her future child*

v.41 *Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit – so her following words about Mary and her child are inspired insight into God's ways*

v.43 *the mother of my Lord – Elizabeth recognizes that Mary's child will be her Lord, the Messiah King*

1. Why would Mary have been keen to share her experience with her relative Elizabeth?  
Elizabeth is much older than Mary but how does she greet her? What does she recognize in her?  
What can we learn from Elizabeth's words and attitude?

### **Luke 1: 46-56 Mary's Song**

v.46 *My soul glorifies... – in Latin 'Magnificat anima mea': so the church's song, or canticle, based on these words, is called the Magnificat.*

v.47 *my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour – this phrase and several others in Mary's song are similar to Hannah's song when she handed over her young Samuel to serve in the Temple (1 Samuel 2:1-10)*

v.50 *those who fear him – not so much those who are afraid of God, as those who respect him and try to obey him in everything*

v.51 *he has performed... has scattered... has brought down... has filled – it isn't clear how much Mary is thinking of God's actions in the past; or whether she sees the work that he has already begun to do in her as bringing these things to pass in the future*

v.56 *for about three months – so Mary must have visited Elizabeth immediately after Gabriel appeared to her (Mary) and left just before Elizabeth's son, John, was born*

2. Why does Mary sing this song: for God, for herself, for Elizabeth, or for all?  
What does she say that God has done, and will do, for her?  
What does she say about the Character (Name) of God?
3. What is Mary's message about God's view of human society and its priorities?  
Is it fair to describe it as 'a revolutionary canticle'?  
How could we show more of the spirit of her song in ourselves, our church, our village, and our town?
4. 'Protestants have been so concerned to avoid giving Mary any honour that is really due to her Son that they have failed to value her example as his first disciple.'  
Do you agree? What can we learn from Mary's words and actions in this passage?