

The Magnificat: A Song of Salvation

Luke 1:46-55

12/21/14

by Bob DeWaay

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Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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Elizabeth Prophecies

Luke 1:39-43 (HCSB)

In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was **filled with the Holy Spirit**. Then she exclaimed with a loud cry: "**You are the most blessed of women**, and your child will be blessed!"

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Mary Magnifies Her Savior

Luke 1:46-47 (HCSB)

And Mary said: **My soul proclaims the greatness** of the Lord, and **my spirit has rejoiced** in **God my Savior**,

- This is poetry that uses synonymous parallelism
- Soul and spirit are in synonymous relationship as are "proclaimed greatness" and "rejoiced"
- This is a song of salvation, common in the OT
- This echoes 1Sam. 2:1-10 (Hannah)

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God Looks With Favor on the Humble

Luke 1:48, 49 (HCSB)

because He has **looked with favor** on the **humble condition of His slave**. Surely, from now on all generations will **call me blessed**, because the Mighty One has **done great things** for me, and His name is holy.

- The blessed are recipients of God's grace
- "Looked with favor" and "done great things" are synonymously parallel

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Mercy to the Humble; The Proud Rejected

Luke 1:50-51 (HCSB)

His **mercy** is from generation to generation on those who **fear Him**. He has done a mighty deed with His arm; He has **scattered the proud** because of the **thoughts of their hearts**;

- "Fear Him" and "Proud" are antithetically parallel
- "Mercy" is thematic
- "thoughts" of "hearts" means faulty reasoning

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God Brings Reversal

Luke 1:52-53 (HCSB)

He has **topped the mighty** from their thrones and **exalted the lowly**. He has **satisfied the hungry** with good things and **sent the rich away empty**.

- This is a chiastic structure
- There is antithetical parallelism here
- Mary was one of low status upon whom God looked with favor

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God Keeps His Promises

Luke 1:54-55 (HCSB)

He has **helped** His servant Israel, **mindful of His mercy**, just as He spoke to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever.

- The promises to the Patriarchs still stand
- “mercy” is thematic
- “descendants” is literally “seed”
- “mindful” means “remember” – God remembers mercy

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Implications and Applications

- God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble
- We must sing songs of salvation

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Proud and Humble Have Opposite Outcomes

James 4:6 (NASB)

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “**God is opposed to the proud**, but **gives grace to the humble**.”

- This is an antithetical parallelism
- Psalm 43:4, 6
- Luke 12:19-21

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We Must Sing Songs of Salvation

Revelations 15:3, 4 (NASB)

And they sang the **song of Moses**, the bond-servant of God, and the **song of the Lamb**, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For **Your righteous acts have been revealed.**"

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We Must Sing Songs of Salvation

Colossians 3:16, 17 (NASB)

Let the word of Christ richly **dwell** within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** through Him to God the Father.

- "Let Dwell" is imperative in the Greek
- Like Mary, we are recipients of salvation and therefore sing songs of praise to God

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