

Insights from Luke

Lessons from a Hymn

Luke 1:39-55

Mary's *Magnificat* – Luke 1:46-55

Zacharias' *Benedictus* – Luke 1:67-79

The Angels' *Gloria* – Luke 2:13-14

Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* – Luke 2:29-32

I Samuel 2:1, 7-8

“¹ Then Hannah prayed and said,
‘My heart exults in the Lord;
My horn is exalted in the Lord,
My mouth speaks boldly against my enemies,
Because I rejoice in Your salvation.
⁷ The Lord makes poor and rich;
He brings low, He also exalts.
⁸ 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.’”

The *Magnificat* alludes to or quotes many Old Testament texts found in:

Genesis

Deuteronomy

I Samuel

II Samuel

Job

Psalms

Isaiah

Ezekiel

Micah

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Luke 1:39-41

“³⁹ Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:41a, 44

“^{41a} When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; ... ⁴⁴ ‘For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.’”

Genesis 25:21-23

“²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, ‘If it is so, why then am I this way?’ So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ The Lord said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.’”

Luke 1:41b-43, 45

“^{41b} ... and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice and said, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.’”

II Samuel 23:2

“² The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”

Acts 2:4

“⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

Luke 11:27

“²⁷ While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, ‘Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.’”

Elizabeth's point was that Mary was the most blessed woman of all because she would bear the greatest child. Although Gabriel had informed Zacharias that their own son would be great, Elizabeth humbly acknowledged that Mary's would be greater. Elizabeth's child would be Messiah's forerunner, but Mary's was the Messiah.

Deuteronomy 7:13

“¹³ He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you.”

Psalms 127:3

“³ Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”

Luke 1:46-48a

“⁴⁶ And Mary said:

‘My soul exalts the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced
in God my Savior.

^{48a} For He has had regard for the
humble state of His bondslave....”

First

Worship is internal.

Second

Worship exalts God.

Third

Worship is continuous.

Fourthly

Worship is known by humility.

“^{48b} 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.
⁵¹ He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who were proud
in the thoughts of their heart.
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.”

“The Mighty One has done great things.”

Psalm 103:17

“¹⁷ But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.”

“His mighty deeds”

He scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Exodus 5:2

“² But Pharaoh said, ‘Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and besides, I will not let Israel go.’”

Daniel 5:20

“²⁰ But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.”

He exalts the humble.

Luke 14:11

“¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18:14

“¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Filled the hungry with good things.

Psalm 34:10

“¹⁰ The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; but they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing.”

Psalm 107:8-9

“⁸ Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! ⁹ For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.”

The rich left empty-handed.

Luke 6:24

“²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full.”

Luke 18:24-25

“²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, ‘How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’”

All of this redemption was because of God's dealings with men through covenants.

Luke 1:54-55

“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.”

**John manifested life as soon as
Jesus came near.
The same is true of believers.**

**In his opening chapter, Luke makes
clear that Jesus Christ is Lord.
We may not be the rulers of our own
lives anymore.**

**The redeemed know
that they are
spiritually bankrupt.**

**Pride and self-justification
are the signs of a dead heart,
while humility is the pulse of the
redeemed heart.**