

Luke 1:39-80, Prophetic Fulfilment

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb**, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, **the baby in my womb** leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

- 1) **Baby's in the Womb Hear!** – When each of our children were still in the womb we would speak to them. They feel love & acceptance or rejection, so be careful of your attitudes toward them.
- 2) **Destined from the Womb:** Like Jesus, your plan was destined from your mother's womb. God wrote His plan for your life before you were born. From the place you were created in Heaven is the place you will return to give account for your life.
 - a) **Psalm 139:13** *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; **all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.***
 - b) **Jer. 1:5** *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*
 - c) **Gal. 1:15** *But when God, **who set me apart from my mother's womb** and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.*
 - d) **Isaiah 44:2** *This is what the LORD says— **he who made you, who formed you in the womb**, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.*
 - e) **Isaiah 49:1** *Listen to Me, O islands; pay attention, O distant peoples: **The LORD called Me from the womb**; from the body of My mother He named Me.*
 - i) You were called from the Womb.
 - ii) You do not get to decide what you want to be in life—God decides that.
 - iii) It's your responsibility to discover God's will for your life.
 - iv) You must pray and ask God what He has for you here to do?
 - v) You will give account of your life from the place you were created.

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ **for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.**

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

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

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

1. Mary's Song:

a. **This song is called the "Magnificat," (Latin term for Mary's Song), which has often been used as the basis for choral music and hymns.**

b. **Like Hannah, the mother of Samuel** (1 Sam. 2: 1-10), Mary glorified God in song for what he was going to do for the world through her.

i. **Both Mary & Hannah's songs depict God** as champion of the poor, the oppressed, and the despised.

2. (v.48) Mary was never meant to be worshipped. We can venerate her, but not worship her.

a. **V.48 Mary saw herself as a lowly and humble servant, not someone to be worshipped.**

b. **Nowhere in the NT does it say to worship Mary**; those who say we are supposed to worship Mary committing Eisegesis (reading into the text).

i. **Luke 11:27** *As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."*

c. **Only Jesus is Worthy of our Worship → Not even Angels:** Remember John in the book of Revelation? He fell prostrate, **twice** before an Angel, and twice, both angels said don't do it we are fellow servant like you – Worship God (Rev. 19:10; Rev. 22:8)!

i. **Rev. 22:8** *I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, **I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel** who had been showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, "**Don't do that!** I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. **Worship God!**"*

ii. **Unbiblical to worship angels or saints! → Only Jesus!** The devil has cleverly turned our worship away from Christ to other things!

The Birth of John the Baptist: John prepared the way for Jesus (1:76)

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to **circumcise the child**, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” ⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” ⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

1. **OT Circumcision:** Occurs in the Flesh. God had commanded/**instituted circumcision** when he was beginning to **form his holy nation** (Genesis 17:4-14), and he had reaffirmed it through Moses (Leviticus 12:1-3).
 - a. **Gen. 17:10** *This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. 13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”*
 - b. The **circumcision** ceremony was an **important event for the family** of a **Jewish baby boy**. This ceremony was a **time of joy** when relatives and friends came to **celebrate the baby’s becoming part of God’s Covenant Nation**.
 - c. The **day of circumcision** was also the day when parents would formally **announce the child’s name**.
 - d. One was cut off from Israel if not circumcised.
2. **NT Circumcision: Occurs in the Heart.**
 - a. **Romans 2:28** A person is *not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.* 29 *No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.*
 - b. Being Born Again is the Sign of Circumcision by the Spirit. Believers have been Marked by God! No spiritual circumcision → No Heaven!

Zechariah's Song: prophecies about the coming Messiah— Jesus. (Called the Benedicuts in Latin)

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **prophesied**:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and **redeemed** them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ **salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—**

⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ **the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,** and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷ **to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,**

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” ⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

1) V.67 Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

a) **OT Servants had the Spirit upon them**, and only in rare occasions were filled, which mainly was reserved for individuals in offices such as prophets, kings and priests. **NT Servants have the Spirit upon us and in Us** and we are not just servants, but sons and daughters.

b) When filled with the Spirit it results in divine speech → Spirit Baptism.

i) **Acts 2:1 (DAY OF PENTECOST)** *When the Day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES as the Spirit enabled them.*

ii) **Acts 10:44-48 (CORNELIUS HOUSEHOLD)** *v.44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*

iii) **Acts 19:1-7 (EPHESUS)** *v.6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*

****Infilling of the Spirit is the entry way to 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12)****

2) V.68 Redeemed

- a) The word **redeemed** literally means “**accomplished redemption.**”
- b) In the **Old Testament**, “redemption” **pictured the rescue by God of the Israelites from Egypt and their return from captivity in Babylon** (see Deuteronomy 7: 8; Jeremiah 31: 11).
- c) “**Redemption**” means **recovery of something or someone upon payment of a ransom**. The climate of Israel in the first century was again a “captivity,” for the Jews were subject to the Romans. The Jews were looking for a political Messiah to “redeem” them once again. But Messiah’s redemption would be different from current expectations. Jesus would bring redemption from sin.

3) V.71 *salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—*

- i) The words, saved from our enemies and from all who hate us, clearly indicate what was happening in that society. Zechariah prophesied that the Messiah would bring deliverance. The Jews were eagerly awaiting the Messiah, but they thought he would come **to save them from the powerful Roman Empire. They were ready for a military Savior, but not for a peaceful Messiah who would conquer sin. Zechariah’s words would come true, but in a different manner than most expected.** Thirty years later, when Jesus began his public ministry, he would be misunderstood and rejected for not being the mighty warrior for whom the Jews had been hoping.

4) **73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham: 74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies**

- a) *1:72-75 Through the coming Savior, God has been merciful to the Jewish people and their ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant with them, specifically the covenant that he gave to Abraham. Recorded in **Genesis 22:16-18, the oath to Abraham** promised that the enemies of Abraham’s descendants would be subdued and that blessing to his descendants would result from Abraham’s obedience.*
- i) **Gen. 22:16** and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. **Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies**, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”