December 10, 2006

Mary's *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-56

Intro: In Luke 1:46-56 we find the portion of Scripture called Mary's *Magnificat*. This great worship hymn of Mary is called the *Magnificat* because it begins verse 47 in Jerome's Latin translation with the words, "My soul magnifies the LORD!" This is perhaps the most loved of the five hymns or songs recorded in the Lukan infancy narrative (chaps. 1–2). We have: (1) the hymn of Elizabeth blessing Mary (1:41-45); (2) the hymn of Mary (vv. 46-56); (3) the hymn of Zacharias (vv. 68-79); (4) the hymn of the angelic host (2:14); and (5) the hymn of Simeon (2:29-32).

I. Mary Praises God for His Actions Concerning Her 1:46-49

A. Mary's initial praise (vv. 46-47)

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and My spirit rejoices in God my Savior"



- B. Reason for Mary's praise (vv. 48-49)
 - 1. For He has regard for His humble (lowly) bondservant (v. 48; cf. v. 38)
 - 2. For the *Mighty One* has done great things for me (v. 49) *GOD IS MIGHTY*

Mary is referring to God's choosing her to be the mother of the Son of God.

GOD IS SAVIOR

GOD IS HOLY

II. Mary Praises God for His Dealings with the Proud and Humble 1:50-53

- A. *God is Merciful* unto generations of those who fear (love and obey) Him (v. 50; cf. Psalm 103:17; turn to Exod 34:6-7).
 GOD IS MERCIFULL
- B. He has done mighty deeds with his arm (vv. 51-53)
 - 1. He scatters the proud in heart (v. 51)
 - 2. He removes prideful rulers from power and exalts the humble (v. 52)
 - 3. He fills the hungry and sends the rich away empty-handed (v. 53)

GOD IS A COVENANT GOD

III. Mary Praises God for His Faithfulness to His Covenant Promises to Israel 1:54-56

- A. God gives help to His servant Israel, based on the Abrahamic Covenant (v. 54)
- B. God's promises to the Fathers and to Abraham and *His Seed* are Eternal (v. 55)

Application:

1.

2.

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GOD IS JUDGE