

# A Sign of Blessing

A message on **Luke 1:46-55**

December 19, 2021



# Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,  
47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.  
48 For He has had regard for the humble state of His bond-servant;  
For behold, from now *on* all generations will call me blessed.  
49 For the Mighty One has done great things for me;  
And holy is His name.  
50 And His mercy is to 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 hearts.  
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 the rich away empty-handed.  
54 He has given help to His servant Israel,  
In remembrance of His mercy,  
55 Just as He spoke to our fathers,  
To Abraham and his descendants forever.”

# Luke's Gospel Account

1 Since many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 it seemed fitting to me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it out* for you in an orderly sequence, most excellent Theophilus; 4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

# Mary's Response to God:

## Luke 1:31-33, 38-45

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

38 And Mary said, “Behold, the Lord’s bond-servant; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. 39 Now at this time Mary set out and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah 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 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? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”

# Zechariah's Response to God: Luke 1:5-7, 12-20

5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. 7 And *yet* they had no child, because Elizabeth was infertile, and they were both advanced in years.

12 Zechariah was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. 14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. 17 And *it is* he *who* will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers back to *their* children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in her years." 19 The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time."

# The People's Response to God: Luke 11:29-32

29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now something greater than Jonah is here.

# Jesus' Response to God: Luke 24:44-47

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."  
45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,  
47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

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# Reflection Questions

1. What are signs of God's blessing in your life?
2. What does God want you to do in response?
3. What can you do next to end the year well?

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