

**I. Introduction.**

**II. A joyful visit. v. 39-45,56**

**A. Why does Mary visit Elizabeth? v. 39-40,36**

These women are in a unique position to encourage one another in the Lord.

**B. Elizabeth and her unborn baby give glory to God. v. 41-45**

1. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. v. 41b,67 4:1 12:12 Acts 2:4 4:8
2. John leaps for joy while still in his mother's womb. v. 41a,44,15 John 3:29
3. Mary is blessed to be the mother of the Messiah. v. 42 Gen. 3:15 Isa. 7:14
4. Mary's faith in the God's Word is commended. v. 45 8:21 Heb. 11:1,6
5. Elizabeth, though she has greater earthly status, is humble. v. 43 John 3:30
6. Elizabeth believes that Mary's baby is the Lord. v. 43,46,76 2:11 1 Co. 12:3ff Col. 1:15-17 2:9 Heb. 1:3 John 1:1ff Acts 2:36 Mt. 22:42ff Ps. 110:1 Phil. 2:9-11

**C. Mary returns to her home at about the time Elizabeth gives birth. v. 56**

**D. Application.**

1. We all need mutual encouragement. Heb. 10:24-25 3:13 Pr. 27:17 18:24 Titus 2:4f
2. What some call a zygote, an embryo, or a fetus while in the womb is a baby. v. 41,42b,44,14 2:12,16 18:15 2 Tim. 3:15
3. We can follow Elizabeth's example by joyfully commending (affirming) God's work in others. v. 45 1 Th. 1:2ff Prov. 31:28ff Rev. 2:2,19
4. Do you acknowledge that Jesus is Lord? v. 43 Phil. 2:9-11
5. The presence of Christ is cause for great joy. v. 44

**III. Joyful praise. v. 46-55**

**A. Mary magnifies the Lord. v. 46-47 1 Sam. 2:1-2 Ps. 34:2 35:9 103:1 Hab. 3:18**

1. Why is this song of Mary called the Magnificat?
2. If God is already infinitely magnificent how can we magnify him?
3. Mary's song follows the pattern of the Psalms of praise – a declaration of praise (v. 46-47) followed by reasons for praise (v. 48-55). Psalm 8,33,47,100,135,136
4. Mary's song of praise is filled with Old Testament quotations, allusions, and themes. 1 Sam. 2:1-10 Ex. 15:1ff
5. How could a simple peasant girl compose such a rich masterpiece? 1:1-4 2 Pet. 1:20-21 2 Tim. 3:15-17
6. Mary acknowledges that she needs a Savior. v. 47 2:11 Mt. 1:21 Acts 5:31 13:23 Ro. 3:23 Is. 53:6 2 Tim. 1:10 1 Jo. 4:9-10 Jude 1:25

**B. Mary has personal reasons to exalt the Lord. v. 48-50 Ps. 126:3**

1. God has lifted her from lowliness to blessedness. v. 48-49a 4:18-21 6:20 1 Sa. 1:11 Isa. 61:1-2 Ps. 34:18 113:6ff Mt. 5:3-5
2. God is worthy of praise because of Who He is. v. 49-50
  - a. He is powerful/mighty on behalf of His people. v. 49a 1:35,37,51 18:27 Ex. 3:20 15:6 Ps. 115:3 24:8 89:10 Isa. 9:6-7 53:1 Dt. 10:17-18
  - b. His Name is holy. v. 49b 1:35 1 Sam. 2:2 Isa. 6:1-5 57:15 Ps. 99:3 103:1
  - c. He is merciful toward those who fear Him. v. 50 Ps. 103:13,17

- C. Mary magnifies God because He lifts up the humble and humbles the proud. v. 51-53  
Prov. 3:34 Ps. 107:33ff
1. Mary moves from God's work on her behalf to what He is doing for all.
  2. Why are these six verbs all in the aorist (past) tense? Rom. 8:30 Eph. 2:6
  3. The Lord has humbled the proud. Ex. 6:1 15:1ff Gen. 11:9 Dt. 4:34 Dan. 4:19ff 5:6 1 Sa. 2:3-10 Ps. 37:35-36 89:10 147:6 107:39ff 1 Ki. 17:36 Acts 13:17
  4. The coming of Jesus brings about a dramatic reversal. 4:18 2:34 6:20ff 12:19-20 14:11 16:19-31 18:9-14 Jo. 6:1-14,35 Ps. 2:1ff Mt. 5:3ff Acts 12:21-23 Da. 2:44f
  5. Jesus humbled Himself and then was exalted. Phil. 2:5-11 Mt. 11:29
  6. We who are hungry have been filled with the best things in Christ. v. 53 6:20-21 1 Sa. 2:5 Ps. 103:5 107:9 Isa. 55:1-2 Mt. 5:1ff John 6:35 4:14 2 Cor. 8:9
- D. Mary exalts God because He has been faithful to His covenant promises. v. 54-55  
Gen. 12:2ff 3:15 2 Sam. 7:8ff 22:51 Isa. 44:1-2 42:1 49:3 41:8-9 Rom. 9:6 Ga. 3:29,7
- E. Application.
1. Will you join Mary's song by exalting God in your worship? John 4:24 1:46-47 Ps. 103:1 108:1 Js. 5:13 Rev. 20:6
  2. Some of your biggest problems might be solved if you would magnify the Lord. Amos 8:11 Isa. 55:1-2
  3. Have you humbled yourself before God? 14:11 Rev. 3:17
  4. If you want to magnify the Lord, saturate yourself (and your family) in His Word. Col. 3:16 1 Pe. 2:1-3 Psalm 1:1ff 119:11 Jer. 31:33
  5. God still calls, uses and exalts the lowly (and He still humbles the proud). 1:48 1 Cor. 1:26ff Mt. 23:12 1 Pet. 5:5 Js. 4:6
  6. Can this Psalm be used to encourage political revolutionaries?
  7. The coming of Christ enables us to endure while living in a world in which the people who have political and economic power are corrupt and proud.
  8. We have great reason to rejoice and exalt God our Savior.

### Discussion questions

1. Why is the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth important?
2. How can we build each other up just as Mary and Elizabeth did?  
Why doesn't such edifying fellowship happen more often?
3. How did Elizabeth know that Mary's baby is the Lord?
4. How is Elizabeth's commendation of Mary an example we can follow?
5. What does this passage reveal about the value of life in the womb?
6. If God is already infinitely magnificent how can we magnify him?
7. How will exalting the Lord help us with our problems in life?
8. How does Mary's song refute some of the false teachings about her place in God's plan?
9. How could a teenaged girl compose a such a magnificent, scripture-saturated song?
10. How is the theme of reversal (humbling the proud and exalting the humble) seen in Israel's past?
11. How is the theme of reversal seen in the coming of the Messiah?
12. Can this Psalm be used to encourage political revolutionaries?
13. How can we worship as Mary worshiped?
14. Have you humbled yourself before the Lord?