



Part 1: "Mary Christmas"

The Divine Reversal: A Song of HOPE

Passage Background: "Mary is deeply moved by these amazing encounters—first with the messenger and then with her cousin, Elizabeth. Mary's response can't be contained in normal prose; her noble soul overflows in poetry. And this poetry isn't simply religious; it has powerful social and political overtones. It speaks of a *great reversal*—what might be called a social, economic, and political revolution. To people in Mary's day, there is little question as to what she is talking about. The Jewish people are oppressed by the Roman Empire, and to speak of a King who will demote the powerful and rich and elevate the poor and humble means one thing: God is moving toward setting them free! Soon Zacharias will overflow in poetry of his own."¹

Luke 1:46-55 (NKJV); The **Song of Mary**

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;

¹ Quote from the VOICE Bible.

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy *is* His name.

⁵⁰ And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones,
And exalted *the* lowly.

⁵³ He has filled *the* hungry with good things,
And *the* rich He has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of *His* mercy,

⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever."

Mary Christmas-"The Divine Reversal: A Song of HOPE"

Scripture Insight: "One of four hymns preserved in [Lk 1-2](#) (see [vv. 68-79](#); [2:14](#); [2:29-32](#)). This hymn of praise is known as the Magnificat because in the Latin Vulgate translation the opening word is *Magnificat*, which means "glorifies." This song is like a psalm and should also be compared with the song of Hannah ([1Sa 2:1-10](#); see note on [1Sa 2:1](#))."²

1. **When God moves in the midst of your m_____ , your soul will burst out with jubilant p_____** (v. 46-47).

- Christmas is all about hope and expectation.
- Israel was under Roman occupation and oppression.
- God had come through for Mary, so her first response was to *magnify* the Lord.
- My spirit has rejoiced in God my *Savior*—Mary could rejoice because she knew WHO had saved her!
- Mary could have a "Mary Christmas" because she found her hope and her joy in God alone because He alone was her Savior!

² Quote from NIV Study Bible.

How to have a "Mary" Christmas: You are shopping at the mall and you get cut off in traffic, remember that your source of hope and joy comes from **God your Savior**. Christmas is not all about the presents under the tree, but Christmas is all about the Present who came to die on a tree so that you could have life now and life forevermore!

2. In a world that often appears h_____, Christmas brings hope again (v. 48-53).

- Mary's Song could be called the *Great Reversal*:

1) God exalts the h_____ (v. 48-50, 52-53).

- a. All generations shall call me blessed (v. 48). **all generations will call me blessed:** Mary went from being a poor unknown Hebrew girl to the most honored woman in the history of the world (NKJV Study Bible).
- b. Almighty God has done great things for me (v. 49).
- c. Because He is holy, He always does what is right (v. 49).
- d. He showers mercy on those who fear Him—from generation to generation (v. 50).

Scripture Insight: The term **mercy** expresses the OT concept of God's loyal, gracious, faithful love (see [Ps. 103](#)). **those who fear Him:** God's mercy comes to those who look respectfully to Him.³

Psalm 103:17-18: ¹⁷ But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
On those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant,
And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

- e. One day the lowly will be exalted (v. 52).

James 4:10: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- f. One day the hungry will be filled with good things (v. 53).

2) God humbles the p_____ (51-53).

Scripture Insight: [1:51-53](#) These verses portray a "reversal" in the end times, when those who have abused power will be judged and those who have suffered persecution will be exalted. Mary was looking forward to the day when God's people are no longer oppressed,

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson, NKJV Study Bible.

but are instead blessed by the Lord. God's **strength with His arm** figuratively describes His activity and power as Savior of His people (see v. 47; [Deut. 4:34](#); [Ps. 89:13](#); [118:15](#)).⁴

- a. The proud are scattered—those who seem strong and have it all together will be scattered because their hearts are high on self and low on God (v. 51).
- b. One day there will be a reversal of power—the proud who do not know God will be thrown off their thrones of power and influence. Instead, the lowly follower of Jesus will one day take their place in the King's Kingdom (v. 52).
- c. The rich of this world alone will find themselves poor in the world to come (v. 53).

***How to have a Mary Christmas:** Believe that one day Jesus will make everything right that is wrong in your life right now if you will just surrender it all to Him.*

3. Christmas shows us a display of God's I_____ and m_____ upon humankind (v. 54-55).

- The promise of Christmas: God helps His people (v. 54).
- The hope of Christmas: God showed us His mercy when He sent Jesus (v. 54-55).

***How to have a Mary Christmas:** Knowing that you are a trophy of God's grace will help you through the Holiday blues.*

Take Home Truth: The life that is full of Jesus is a life that is full of hope. A "Mary Christmas" is one that has Jesus at the heart of it.

Preview for next week: Songs of Christmas, Part 2: *Zechariah: A Song of Salvation.* Luke 1:67-79

⁴ Quote from Thomas Nelson.