

§4: MARY'S VISIT TO ELIZABETH

Luke 1:39–56

Mary Goes to Elizabeth

1:39–40

39 Now in these days Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a city of Judah,
40 and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Filled With the Spirit

1:41

41 And it came about when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth's Praise

1:42–45

42 And she cried out with a great cry, and said:
Blessed are you among women!
And blessed is the fruit of your womb!
43 And how has it happened to me [lit. and from where to me]
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears,
the child leaped for joy in my womb.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be [or, believed, because there will be]
a fulfillment of the things spoken to her by the Lord.

Mary's Song

1:46–55

46 And Mary said:
My soul exalts the Lord
47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,
48 because He has looked upon the humble state of His bondmaid;
for behold, from now on all generations will consider me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me;
and holy is His name,
50 and His mercy is unto generations and generations
towards those who fear Him.
51 He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered proud ones in the thought of their heart.
52 He has brought down rulers from thrones,
and raised up lowly ones.
53 Hungering ones He has filled with good things,
and rich ones He has sent away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of Israel His servant,
to remember mercy,
55 just as He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Mary Returns Home

1:56

56 And Mary stayed with her about three months and returned to her home.

Notes

1. **Hill country (Lk. 1:39).** Probably the mountainous region south of Jerusalem. The name of the town or village is not given. Many of the more influential priests lived in Jerusalem or Jericho.
2. **Israel His servant (Lk. 1:54).** The nation of Israel is presented as a servant of God. See Isaiah 41:8ff.
3. **Abraham and his seed (Lk. 1:55).** See Gen. 12:1–3 and the series of similar promises that follow throughout Genesis and the rest of the Bible.
4. **With haste (Lk. 1:39)...three months (Lk. 1:55).** It is likely that Joseph's knowledge of Mary's pregnancy as recorded in Matt. 1:18ff. was obtained after Mary returned from her visit with Elizabeth, though this is by no means certain.