

Lk 1.46-55—A Song of Praise is Fitting

God is to be praised for His personal blessings, vv.46-49a

- I. Mary begins her song with God-exalting praise.
 - A. Her *soul magnified or glorified the Lord*.
 - B. Her *spirit rejoiced in God her Saviour*.
- II. She praises God for the particular mercy with which He had favored her.
 - A. He had *looked on her humble estate. He who is mighty had done great things for her*.

God is to be praised for His attributes, vv.49b-53

- I. She praises God for his exalted holiness, v.49 *holy is His name*, Ps 99.2-3; Isa 57.15.
 - A. He whose throne is above all the earth, and who *alone* is God, has condescended in the incarnation to save.
- II. She praises God for His steadfast mercy, v.50. *His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation*, 2Cor 1.3; Eph 2.4.
 - A. The mercy of God to sinners had most apparently and eminently declared itself in the incarnation.
 - B. It's a mercy for all those who fear Him, for all those who trust in His Name—not Abraham's natural offspring, but Abraham's spiritual offspring, Rom 9.6-8; Gal 3.29.
- III. She praises God for His omnipotent power, v.51. *He has shown strength with His arm and scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts*, Isa 59.16.
 - A. The incarnation was an act of divine power and might by which God scattered the thoughts of the proud.
- IV. She praises God for His wise judgments, vv.52-53. *He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty*, Rom 3.25.

A. The incarnation of Jesus is the *beginning* of that long-awaited Day when all will be made right and the judgments of men will be reversed by God.

V. So Mary praises God not only for His mercies toward her but for the beautiful display of His attributes *in* those mercies.

God is to be praised for His faithfulness to His Word, vv.54-55

- I. In the sending of Jesus as the Mediator who would reconcile the sinner and God, God was at last sending the divine Help which His people needed, vv.54-55.
 - A. After the 400 yrs. of silence since the Babylonian captivity, God would fulfill every promise, type, shadow, and prophecy of the OT.
 - B. It was a remembering of mercy, the remembrance of His promise to the fathers to show mercy for Christ's sake.
 - 1. He for whom they waited will now be born to deliver and He in whom we now trust to deliver was here born.

Application

- I. Do you have cause to praise God today?
 - A. God sent His Son into the world to show you His *mercy*. But do you know this mercy of God in Christ?
 - 1. If you do, then, with Mary, rejoice.
 - 2. But if you do not, then come to God through Christ now, Isa 55.6-7; Ps 130.7.
 - B. God sent His Son into this world to reveal *Himself*. But do you know this God?
 - 1. If you do, then, with Mary, rejoice.
 - 2. But if you do not, then come to God through Christ now, Prov 8.17.