

### Introduction

Sometimes, because of all the distractions that fill this season, we forget to take time to properly **PRAISE THE LORD** as we should. Just think about it: **JESUS CHRIST, WHO** is **YAHWEH** or the **JEHOVAH GOD** of the **OLD TESTAMENT**, became man so that **HE** might provide **SALVATION** through **HIS BLOOD** so that by **GRACE**, through **FAITH** we might one day live with **HIM** forever in **HEAVEN!**

Today, on this **CHRISTMAS DAY**, I want us to look at the **FOCUS ON PRAISE OF THE LORD** that is shown to us in **SCRIPTURE** in the days leading up to and even on as well as shortly after that original **CHRISTMAS DAY!**

### **I. WE SEE MARY'S PRAISE! (Luke 1:46-55)**

#### **A. Mary's Soul MAGNIFIED The LORD! (Vs. 46)**

While some choose to **MAGNIFY MARY** at **CHRISTMAS**, **MARY** chose to **MAGNIFY the LORD** in her **LIFE!**

That word **MAGNIFY** means *“to make or declare great; i.e. to increase, to raise, or exalt”!* The word that is translated **MAGNIFY** here is translated elsewhere in the **NEW TESTAMENT** as **ENLARGE** twice, as **MAGNIFY** five times, and as **SHEW GREAT** one time!

#### **The Psalmist David wrote of MAGNIFYING THE LORD!**

**Psalm 34:2-3**—“2 My soul shall make her *boast in the LORD*: The humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. 3 *O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt his name together.*”

**Psalm 69:30**—“*I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify him with thanksgiving.*”

**Psalm 40:16**—“*Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: Let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.*”

Our desire should be as **MARY'S...to MAGNIFY THE LORD** in our **SOUL** or **LIFE!**

The Apostle Paul wrote of **MAGNIFYING THE LORD!**

**Philippians 1:20-21**—“20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, *but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.* 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

### **B. Mary's Spirit REJOICED In GOD Her SAVIOUR. (Vs 47)**

#### **1. For GOD Regarding Her. (Vs 48)**

**Psalm 8:4**—“*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?*”

**Romans 5:8**—“*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

#### **2. For GOD Doing Great Things In Her Life. (Vs 49)**

The Prophet Samuel told the Children of Israel:  
**1 Samuel 12:24**—“*Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*”

The words to Fanny J. Crosby's great hymn:  
**“To God Be The Glory” #66**

#### **3. For GOD'S Mercy. (Vs 50)**

**Psalm 100:5**—“*For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; And his truth endureth to all generations.*”

**Psalm 106:1**—“*Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: For his mercy endureth for ever.*”

**Psalm 107:1**—“*O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: For his mercy endureth for ever.*”

*Psalm 117:2*—“For his merciful kindness is great toward us: And the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. **Praise ye the LORD.**”

*Psalm 118:1, 29*—“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: Because his mercy endureth for ever.”  
(Vs 2, 3, and 4 state “his mercy endureth for ever”)

*Psalm 136:1*—“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: For his mercy endureth for ever.”  
(All 26 verses state “for his mercy endureth for ever”)

*Psalm 147:11*—“The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, **In those that hope in his mercy.**”

*Isaiah 63:7*—“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, And according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.”

*Titus 3:5*—“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

4. **For GOD’S Strength And Victory. (Vs 51-52)**  
*Psalm 98:1*—“O sing unto the LORD a new song; For he hath done marvellous things: **His right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.**”

*1 Corinthians 15:57*—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

6. **For HIS Provision. (Vs 53)**

*Psalm 34:9*—O fear the LORD, ye his saints: For there is **no want** to them that fear him.

7. **For HIS Faithfulness. (Vs 54-55)**  
*Psalm 98:3*—“He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

*Luke 21:33*—“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”

WE SEE MARY’S PRAISE!

- II. **WE SEE ZACHARIAS’ PRAISE! (Luke 1:64; 67-79)**  
A. **He PRAISED GOD For HIS VISITATION! (Vs 68a)**  
**The “Immanuel” of Isaiah 7:14 had come!**

*John 1:14*—“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

*Luke 7:16*—“And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.”

- B. **He PRAISED GOD For HIS REDEMPTION! (Vs 68b)**  
**The COMING REDEEMER had been PROMISED!**  
**The COMING REDEEMER had been PROCLAIMED!**  
**The COMING REDEEMER had been PICTURED!**  
**The COMING REDEEMER was now PRESENT!**

- C. **He PRAISED GOD For HIS SALVATION! (Vs 69-71)**  
The word “horn” is often used metaphorically to signify strength and honor, because horns are the chief weapons and ornaments of the animals which possess them; hence they are also used as a type of victory.

## PRAISE IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 1:46-55; 2:13-14, 20, 26-32, 36-38

*Salvation* is the fruition of **redemption**. **Redemption** purchases **salvation**, **salvation** realizes **redemption** and brings it into our actual experience

*1 Corinthians 1:18*—“*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”

*1 Corinthians 1:23–25*—“*23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*”

- D. **He Praised GOD For HIS FAITHFULNESS!** (*Vs 72-75*)  
*Micah 7:20*— “*Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, Which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.*”

- III. **WE SEE THE HEAVENLY HOSTS’ PRAISE!** (*Luke 2:13-14*)  
Here we find the angels of **GOD** praising their **CREATOR**. They are **NOT PRAISING GOD** for **HIS GOODNESS** to them, but rather for **HIS GOODNESS** to the children of men.

Too often, we are guilty to only **PRAISE GOD** for what **HE** has personally done for us. We should **PRAISE GOD** for that but if that is the only reason we **PRAISE HIM**, then our motive is simply selfish!

- IV. **WE SEE THE SHEPHERDS’ PRAISE!** (*Luke 2:20*)  
They **GLORIFIED** and **PRAISED GOD** for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.
- A. **They RECEIVED The GOOD NEWS!**
  - B. **They RESPONDED To THE GOOD NEWS!**
  - C. **They REJOICED IN The GOOD NEWS!**
  - E. **They REVEALED The GOOD NEWS!**

## PRAISE IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY

LUKE 1:46-55; 2:13-14, 20, 26-32, 36-38

- V. **WE SEE SIMEON’S PRAISE!** (*Luke 2:26-32*)
- A. **He Was PRAISING GOD For HIS FAITHFULNESS!** (*Vs 26, 29*)
  - B. **He Was PRAISING GOD For HIS SALVATION!** (*Vs. 30*)
  - C. **He Was PRAISING GOD For HIS PROVISION FOR ALL!** (*Vs. 31-32*)

- VI. **WE SEE ANNA’S PRAISE!** (*Luke 2:36-38*)

### Conclusion

#### *Psalm 103*

I thank **GOD** for all of **HIS “BENEFITS.”** I **PRAISE GOD** for the simple things of life that allow us to enjoy living. Our health, wealth, comforts, freedoms, and etc. I thank **GOD** for **WHO HE** is and what **HE** does behind the scenes.

1. **I PRAISE GOD Because Of HIS POWER, SOVEREIGNTY, and PROVIDENCE!**  
**HE** has **ALL POWER** in Heaven and in Earth! Nothing is too big for **HIM** to handle! **HE** can do anything at all times! Everything and every one is subject to **HIM!**

Nothing comes my way that **GOD** has not allowed for **HIS OWN GLORY** and **HE** is both **ABLE TO** and does work it out for my good.

There are times in our life when we may doubt **GOD** because we are **FLESH!** Nevertheless, **GOD** is in control! **HE** never leaves or forsakes **HIS OWN!**

2. **I PRAISE GOD Because Of HIS BEING!**  
**HE** is a **GRACIOUS, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLE, GOOD,** and **MERCIFUL GOD WHO LOVED** us before we ever loved **HIM** in return! Yes, **HE** is **HOLY** and **RIGHTEOUS** but **HIS LOVE** and **PROVISION IN CHRIST** overs a multitude of sins and **HE** is better to us than we are to **HIM!**

**PRAISE IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY**  
**LUKE 1:46-55; 2:13-14, 20, 26-32, 36-38**

**3. I PRAISE GOD Because Of HIS SACRIFICE!**

I am Heaven bound only because of **GOD'S LOVE MANIFESTED** on the **CROSS OF CALVARY! GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF HIS SON! JESUS CHRIST** laid down **HIS** life for us that we might live eternally and have **HIS ABUNDANT LIFE!**

**4. I PRAISE GOD Because Of HIS FAITHFULNESS!**

I am glad that **GOD** is not just **FAITHFUL** only when we are **FAITHFUL!** We would all be in a mess for sure! Can I get a witness?

**GOD** is **FAITHFUL** to **HIS WORD!** **HE** cannot and will not deny **HIMSELF! HE WILL DO AS HE PROMISES!** It may not be in our timing that we'd like to see, but it will be at the right time and, when it gets done, it will be done right!

**5. I PRAISE GOD Because I Am One More Day Closer To Home Than Ever!**

So in light of all that I've said, let's be sure to celebrate **CHRISTMAS** with a **GLORY** and **PRAISE** that only comes through **KNOWING CHRIST!**