



Rejoice: A Promise Kept - Advent #1

November 26 & 27, 2022

We have more to share. Text **CONNECT** to **888-644-4034**

Luke 1:46-47 & 54-55 (NIV) 46 And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Mary rejoices because she knows the birth of Jesus is God keeping a promise to her, to Israel, and to all people. This is reason for us to rejoice as well.

I. God's Promise. God made _____ promise at many times in many ways.

Genesis 3:15 (NIV) And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”


Genesis 9:27 ...may Japheth live in the tents of Shem...

Genesis 12:3 - and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.

God said this at the beginning of time, repeated it throughout time, and kept it in Mary's time for all time. That's His promise.

II. What Was Promised? Mary calls what God promised “mercy”. We call it “salvation”. We further describe it with other, more specific terms.

 _____ - the forgiveness of sin's penalty

 _____ - the breaking of sin's power

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV) 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that **you were redeemed from the empty way of life** handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

 Reversal - _____, turning the tables, reshuffling the deck

Luke 1:52-53 (NIV) 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.





 _____ from enemies

Luke 1:69-71 (NIV) 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
71 salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us...

 _____

This is Mary's “mercy”. This is salvation. This is what God promised us.

III. How Was This Promise Kept? In the absolute best way to keep it: a person.

-  Example
-  Community
-  Intimacy
-  Approachability

These things needed to be. Only a person could bring them into being. So a person was sent. That is how the promise was kept.

IV. Will I Trust This Promise? The promise is both “kept” and “being kept”. So there is need for us to trust.

Luke 1:45 (NIV) Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Blessedness comes by trust. Rejoicing comes by trust. This Christmas, let us trust.

Prayer: Father, I confess that You have kept, are keeping, and will keep Your promise of mercy. I now take my place beside Mary and put my trust in that promise. I put my trust in You and the person You sent. Grant me a deeper appreciation of this promise and lead me into great rejoicing this Advent and Christmas. In Jesus' name, amen

This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

- Sun** 1Chron. 25-27 **Mon** 1Chron. 28-29; Col. 3 **Tue** Psalm 130-133; Col. 4
- Wed** 2Chron. 1-3; 1Thess. 1 **Thur** 2Chron. 4-6; 1Thess. 2 **Fri** 2Chron. 7-9; 1Thess. 3 **Sat** 2Chron. 10-12