

The gospel according to

LUKE

*A message of mercy to the
marginalized*

What stood out to you
while reading Luke's
gospel account?

MAJOR THEMES IN LUKE'S GOSPEL:

1. **Role reversals:** 1:52-53; 6:20-26; 13:30; 14:11; 18:14
 - Outcasts are loved by God: the poor, tax collectors, sinners, women, Samaritans, & even the Gentiles are exalted above the rich, proud, & powerful.
2. **The dangers of wealth:** 8:14; 12:13-34; 16:10-13, 19-31; 18:18-30; ***it can choke out your faith***
 - Jesus is constantly warning about power & wealth & commanding the rich to give what they have to the poor.
3. **Prayer:** 3:21; 5:16; 6:12, 28; 9:18, 28-29; 10:1-2; 11:1-4; 18:1-8; 22:32, 39-46; 23:34, 46
 - Jesus prays at every major point of His ministry!
4. **The Holy Spirit:** 1:15-17, 35, 67; 2:25-27; 3:16, 22; 4:1, 14, 18; 5:17; 11:13; 12:10-12; 24:49;
 - Luke begins & ends with the power of the Holy Spirit & worship at the temple. He is central to Jesus' ministry & promises
5. **Salvation:** 1:5-25, 26-2:38; 4:18-21; 5:30-32; 10:16-20; 19:10; 22:41-42; 24:44-47
 - Jesus being the Savior is emphasized heavily, it's His

BIG PICTURE OUTLINE OF LUKE'S GOSPEL:

1:1-2:52 – Prologue &
infancy narrative

3:1-9:50 – Jesus'
Galilean ministry

9:51-19:27 The journey
to Jerusalem

19:28-24:53 Jesus'
ministry, suffering, &
triumph in Jerusalem

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Luke 1:1-4: Luke's Prologue

V1 written sources were investigated

V2 eyewitnesses were inquired

V3a Luke carefully researched the story

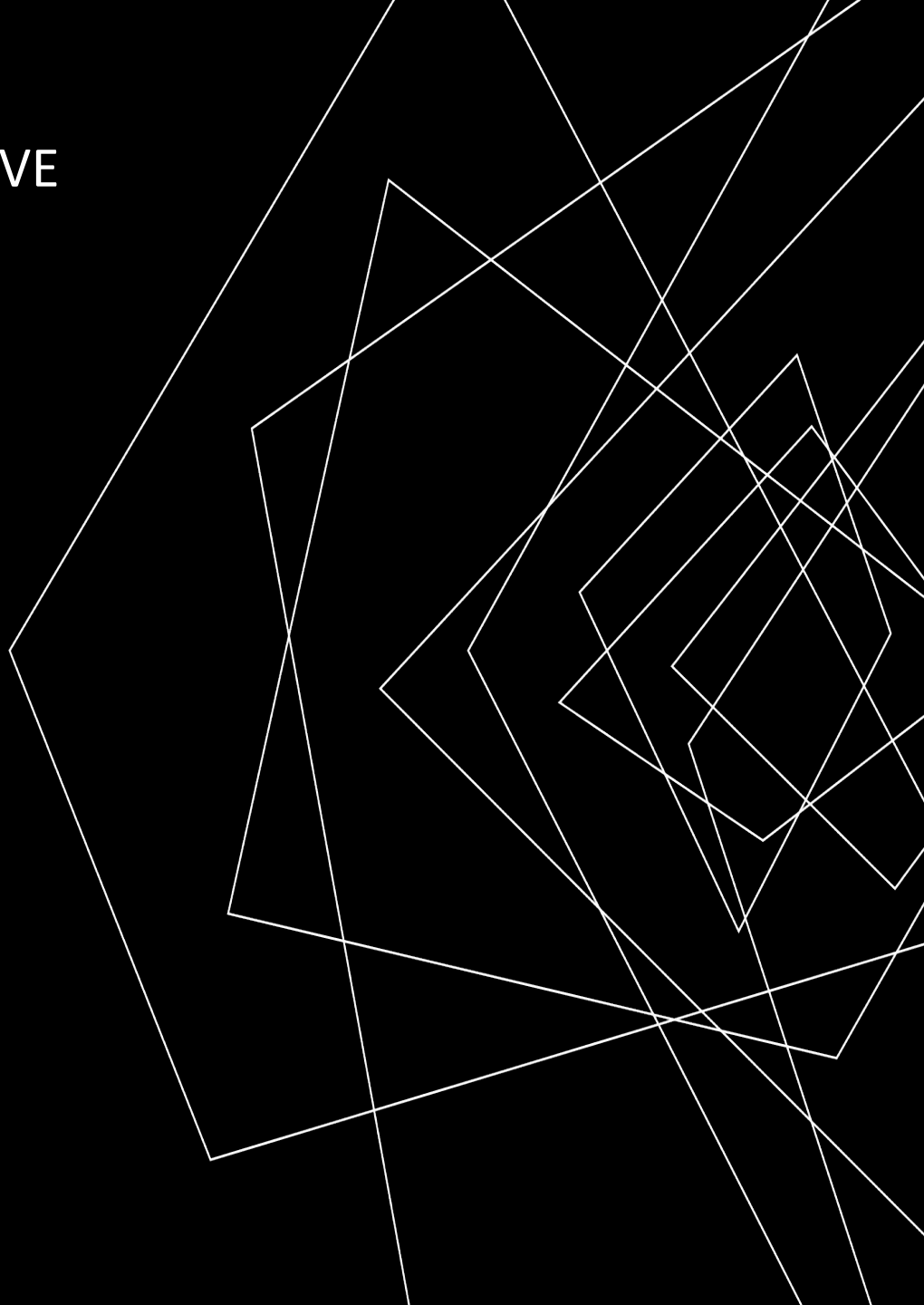
V3b the account is written to understand clearly

V4 the goal: to provide assurance about Jesus

LUKE 1:1-2:52

PROLOGUE & INFANCY NARRATIVE

- The Prologue (1:1-4)
- The birth of John the Baptizer foretold (1:5-25)
- The birth of Jesus foretold (1:26-38)
- Mary visits Elizabeth (1:39-52)
- The birth of John the Baptizer (1:57-80)
- The birth of Jesus Christ (2:1-52)



Luke 1:5-2:1 – John & Jesus: God's promises to Israel

Frame: (1:5) “In the days of King Herod of Judah...”

A (1:5-7) Intro to John's parents: Zechariah & Elizabeth (Narrator)

B (1:8-20) Annunciation of John's birth + Zechariah's poem (Zechariah)

C (1:21-23) Response to Zechariah's vision (People around Z)

D (1:24-25) Elizabeth becomes pregnant w/John (Elizabeth)

E (1:26-38) Annunciation of Jesus' birth to Mary+poem (Mary)

F (1:39-45) Mary meets Elizabeth, Elizabeth declared Mary to be the blessed one (Mary & Elizabeth)

E (1:46-56) Celebration of Mary's pregnancy+poem (Mary)

D (1:57-58) Elizabeth gives birth to John (Elizabeth)

C (1:59-66) People's response to Zechariah naming John (People w/Z)

B (1:67-79) Zechariah celebrates the birth of John + poem (Zechariah)

A (1:80) Conclusion to John's youth (Narrator)

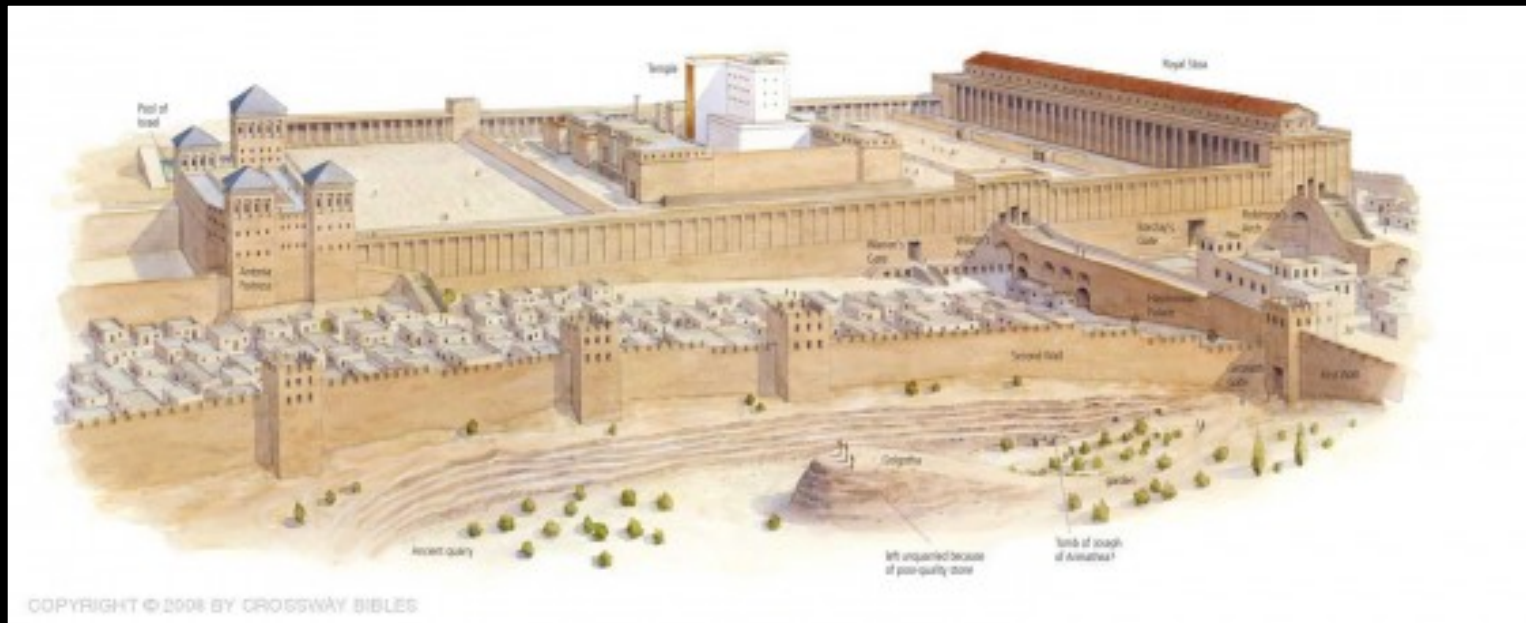
Frame: (2:1) “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus...”

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both were righteous in God's sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord. 7 But they had no children because Elizabeth could not conceive, and both of them were well along in years. -- Luke 1:5-7 (CSB)

Whom should God work with?

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Whom should God work with?

God looks for the righteous and holy to work with, not the rich and powerful.

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OT callbacks?

- Abraham & Sarah (Gen. 18:11)
- Hannah (1 Sam. 1:2)

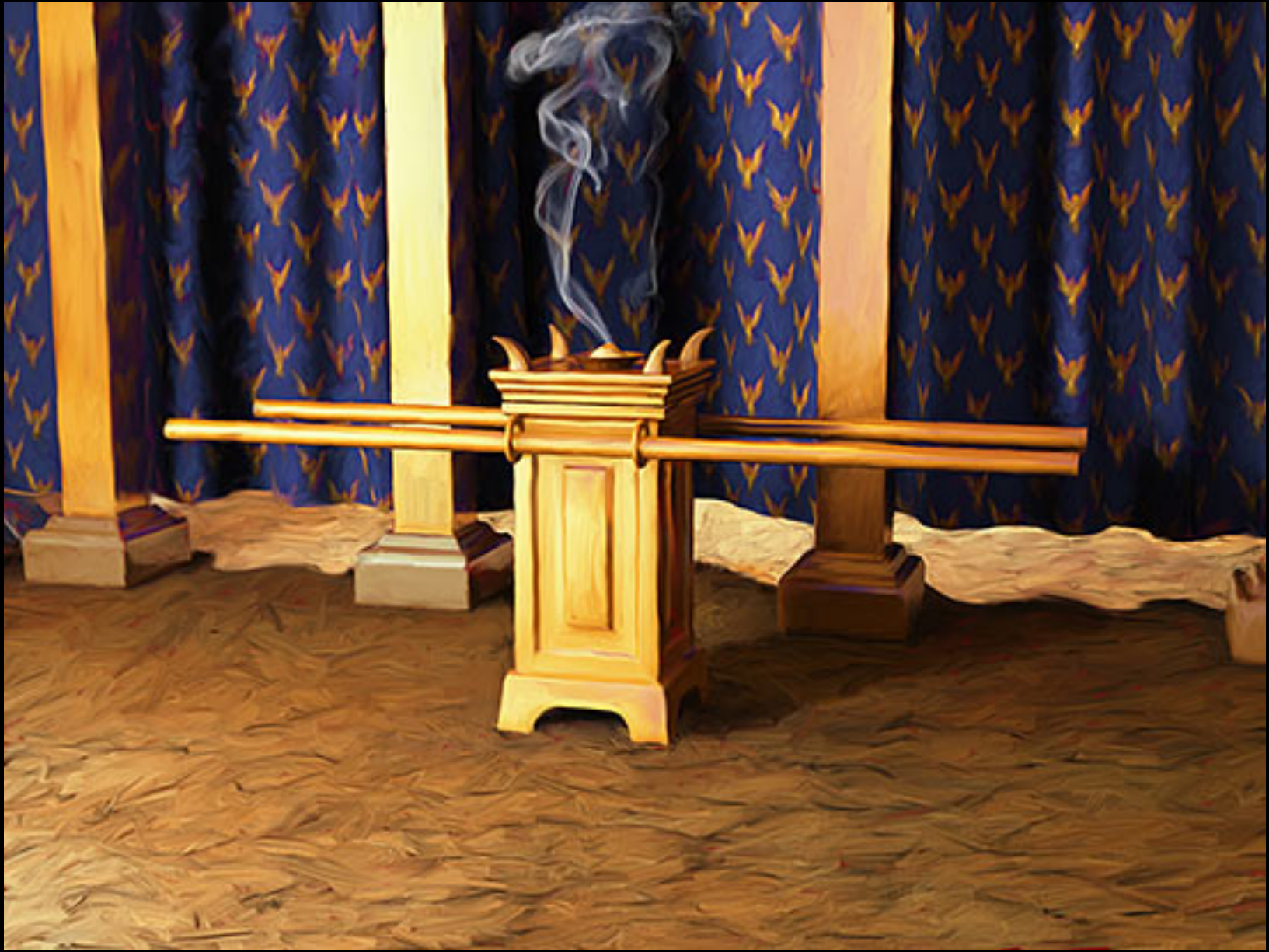
8 When his division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 it happened that he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. 10 At the hour of incense the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. -- Luke 1:8-10 (CSB)

- (1 Chrn. 24:1-6) Abijah's (v5; 1 Chrn. 24:10; Ezr. 3:36-39)

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- Gabriel (1:11, 19) shows up to give Daniel good news at the evening sacrifice (Dan. 9:21)

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- *Proseuchomai* (Greek verb) occurs more frequently in Luke than Matthew, Mark, or John

11 An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified and overcome with fear. 13 But the angel said to him, "*Do not be afraid, Zechariah*, because **your prayer has been heard**. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. 14 There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. 16 He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people." -- Luke 1:11-17

Cf. Dan. 9:21: Gabriel appeared to Daniel to answer prayer

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Cf. Num. 6:1-4 “Nazarite vow”; Judg. 13:2-5 – Samson;
1 Sam. 1:11 – Hannah’s promise (Samuel)

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Cf. Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; cf. Lk. 7:27; Matt. 11:14

18 “How can I know this?” Zechariah asked the angel. “For I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years.” 19 The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and tell you this good news. 20 Now listen. You will become silent and unable to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.” 21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. 22 When he did come out, he could not speak to them. Then they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was making signs to them and remained speechless. 23 When the days of his ministry were completed, he went back home. 24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived and kept herself in seclusion for five months. She said, 25 “The Lord has done this for me. He has looked with favor in these days to take away my disgrace among the people.” -- Luke 1:18-25 (CSB)

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Cf. Gen. 30:23 (Rachel)

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel (v19) was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. 30 Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end." -- Luke 1:26-33 (CSB)

What OT allusions or prophecies do you notice?

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Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. -- Isaiah 7:14

Cf. Matt. 1:23

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“ ‘YHWH declares to you: YHWH himself will make a house for you. 12 When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 *I will be his father, and he will be my son*. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals. 15 But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.’ ” -- 2 Samuel 7:11-16

13 I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. 14 He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed. -- Daniel 7:13-14

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Cf. 2 Sam. 7:11-16; Dan. 7:13-14; Pss. 2; 110

- **Acts 2:32-36** – Peter's sermon connects all this

Mary as a Deliverer

Mary (Luke 1)

(1:28) “Greetings, O favored one,
the Lord is with you!”

(29-30) But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [30] And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

(35a) And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

Gideon (Judges)

(Judg. 6:12) “YHWH is with you, O mighty man of valor.”

(Judg. 6:22-23) Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of YHWH. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord YHWH! For now I have seen the angel of YHWH face to face.” [23] But YHWH said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.”

(Judg. 6:34a) But the Spirit of YHWH clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet...

34 Mary asked the angel, “How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?” 35 The angel replied to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 And consider your relative Elizabeth — even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 “See, I am the Lord’s servant,” said Mary. “May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her. -- Luke 1:34-38 (CSB)

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13 But YHWH asked Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Can I really have a baby when I’m old?’ 14 **Is anything impossible for YHWH?** At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son.” -- Genesis 18:13-14 (CSB)

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13 But YHWH asked Abraham, “**Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Can I really have a baby when I’m old? (Lk. 1:18)’** 14 **Is anything impossible for YHWH?** At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son.” -- Genesis 18:13-14

39 In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah 40 where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (v15).* 42 Then she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and your child will be blessed! 43 How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, *the baby leaped for joy inside me.* 45 Blessed is she who has believed (v20) that the Lord would fulfill what he has spoken to her!" -- Luke 1:39-45 (CSB)

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22 But the children inside her *struggled (LXX "leapt")* with each other, and she said, "Why is this happening to me? " So she went to inquire of YHWH.
-- Genesis 25:22 (CSB)

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24 Most **blessed** of women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; she is most **blessed** among tent-dwelling women... 26 She reached for a tent peg, her right hand, for a workman's hammer. Then she hammered Sisera —**she crushed his head (Gen. 3:15?)**; she shattered and pierced his temple. -- Judges 5:24, 26 (CSB)

39 In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah 40 where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (v15).* 42 Then she exclaimed with a loud cry, "**Blessed** are you among women, and your child will be **blessed**! 43 How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, *the baby leaped for joy inside me.* 45 **Blessed is she who has believed (v20) that the Lord would fulfill what he has spoken to her! "** -- Luke 1:39-45

(CSB)

46 And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 because he has looked with favor on the humble condition of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and his name is holy. 50 His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. 51 He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts; 52 he has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly. 53 He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he spoke to our ancestors. -- Luke 1:46-55

V51 - Mary is a paradigm for God's work

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Mary, in her “low status” (v. 48) is clearly paradigmatic of those whom God exalts. But she does not only represent them. In her own exaltation by God, from low status to being the mother of the Messiah, she becomes the means of the exaltation of the lowly in her generation through the coming of the Messiah. This is why the acts of divine “reversal” and salvation can be described in the past tense, as one single act of salvation for God’s people. Mary’s becoming the mother of the Messiah is the beginning of the exaltation of the lowly and the humiliation of the exalted in Israel that her son will accomplish.

Richard Bauckham, Gospel Women, 70

vv46-50 - God's reversal for Mary

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vv52-55 - Future redemption mirrors Mary's

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51 He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has toppled **the mighty** from their thrones and exalted **the lowly**. 53 He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped **his servant** Israel, remembering **his mercy** 55 to Abraham and his descendants **forever**, just as he spoke to our ancestors. -- Luke 1:46-55

Cf. 1 Sam. 2:1-10 (Hannah's Song)

vv51-55 - God's redemption = reversals

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Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

46 And Mary said: My soul
magnifies the Lord, 47 and
my spirit **rejoices in God**
my Savior,

OT Intertexts

(1 Sam. 2:1) Hannah prayed: **My heart rejoices in the Lord**; my horn is lifted up by the Lord. My mouth boasts over my enemies, because **I rejoice in your salvation.**

(Hab. 3:18) yet I will celebrate in the Lord; **I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!**

(Ps. 35:9) Then I will **rejoice in the Lord**; I will delight **in his deliverance.**

Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

48 because he has looked
with favor on the humble
condition of his servant.
Surely, from now on all
generations will call me
blessed,

OT Intertexts

(1 Sam. 1:11a) Making a vow, she
pleaded, “YHWH of Armies, if you
will take notice of your servant's
affliction...

(Gen. 30:13) Leah said, “I am happy
that the women call me happy,” so
she named him Asher (Happy).

(Ps. 72:17 LXX) 17 May his (the
king's) name endure forever; as long
as the sun shines, may his fame
increase. May all nations be blessed
by him and call him blessed.

Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

49 because the Mighty
One **has done great things**
for me, and **his name is**
holy.

OT Intertexts

(Deut. 10:20-21) 20 You are to fear YHWH your God and worship him. Remain faithful to him and take oaths in his name. 21 He is your praise and he is your God, who **has done for you these great and awe-inspiring works** your eyes have seen.

(Ps. 111:9) He has sent redemption to his people. He has ordained his covenant forever. **His name is holy and awe-inspiring**.

Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

50 His mercy is from
generation to
generation on those
who fear him.

OT Intertexts

(Ps. 103:17) But from
eternity to eternity the
Lord's faithful love is
toward those who fear
him, and his
righteousness toward the
grandchildren

Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

51 He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts;

OT Intertexts

(Ex. 6:1) “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: because of a strong hand he will let them go, and because of a strong hand he will drive them from his land.”

(Ps. 89:11 LXX) You crushed Rahab like one who is slain; you scattered your enemies with your powerful arm.

(Ps. 118:15 LXX) There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the righteous: “YHWH's right arm has done great deeds!

Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

52 he has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

53 He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

OT Intertexts

(1 Sam. 2:7-8) 7 YHWH brings poverty and gives wealth; he humbles and he exalts. 8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the trash heap. He seats them with noblemen and gives them a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are YHWH's; he has set the world on them.

Mary's Song & OT Echoes

Mary's Song (Luke 1)

54 He has helped his
servant Israel,
remembering his mercy
55 to Abraham and his
descendants forever, just
as he spoke to our
ancestors.

OT Intertexts

(Isa. 41:8) But you, Israel, my
servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
descendant of Abraham, my friend

(Ps. 98:3) He has remembered his
love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel; all the ends of the earth have
seen our God's victory.

(Mic. 7:20) You will show loyalty to
Jacob and faithful love to Abraham,
as you swore to our ancestors from
days long ago.

57 Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she had a son. 58 Then her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her his great mercy, and they rejoiced with her. 59 When they came to circumcise the child on the eighth day, they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. 60 But his mother responded, “No. He will be called John.” 61 Then they said to her, “None of your relatives has that name.” 62 So they motioned to his father to find out what he wanted him to be called. 63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they were all amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came on all those who lived around them, and all these things were being talked about throughout the hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard about him took it to heart, saying, “What then will this child become? ” For, indeed, the Lord’s hand was with him. -- Luke 1:57-66 (CSB)

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-- Luke 1:57-66

67 Then his father Zechariah **was filled with the Holy Spirit (vv15, 41)** and prophesied: 68 Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and provided redemption for his people. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 70 just as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets in ancient times; 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of those who hate us. 72 He has dealt mercifully with our ancestors and remembered his holy covenant —73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we,74 we having been rescued from the hand of our enemies, would serve him without fear75 in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.76 And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,77 to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.78 Because of our God's merciful compassion, the dawn from on high will visit us79 to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. -- Luke 1:67-79 (CSB)

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guide our feet into the way of peace. --
Luke 1:78-79 (CSB)

The people walking in darkness have
seen a great light; a light has dawned
on those living in the land of darkness.
-- Isaiah 9:2 (CSB)

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, -- Luke 1:76 (cf. v17)

See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me. *Then the Lord* you seek will suddenly come to his temple, the Messenger of the covenant you delight in — see, he is coming,” says YHWH of Armies.
-- Malachi 3:1 (CSB)

80 The child grew up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel. -- Luke 1:80

3 A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of YHWH in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.
-- Isaiah 40:3 (CSB) (Mal. 3:1; Mrk. 1:3)

What do we learn about
prayer and worship?