

## RELATED SCRIPTURES

Luke 1:17, 76 | Genesis 17:1–8 | Micah 7:18–20

## STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 12.15.24

### SUMMARY

As Luke continues his account of the Nativity, he builds upon what he has already outlined; he contrasts the annunciations of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus and continues that theme as the mothers meet face to face. The baby leaps in the womb of Elizabeth when Mary greets her. Luke details the prophetic first instance of John preparing the way for Jesus (Luke 1:17, 76). Elizabeth proceeds to speak a blessing over, and Mary responds with a heart response as expressed in song.

Mary's Magnificat, Latin for the first word in her song, "magnifies," is the first of three hymns in Luke chapters 1 and 2. It's a song of praise that follows the common form of a psalm of thanksgiving, which usually begins with an offering of thanks to God followed by a telling of why one is thankful. She expresses thanks for her Son, the Savior, while also expressing thanks for what his birth means for Israel. She has understanding that her humble and lowly state is symbolic of Israel's state—and through his strength, he would "scatter the proud" and "exalt the humble" (vs. 51–52). Moreover, Mary speaks of the blessing her child would bring to "Abraham and to his offspring forever." Jesus would be the fulfillment of what the Lord promised Abraham numerous generations before, that he would be "the father of a multitude of nations" (Genesis 17:4), giving us prophetic insight that Jesus would bring completion to those words. Mary's Magnificat affirms the truth that God keeps his word—he does what he says he will do!

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 1:39–56.

What are some of the traits in common you observe between Elizabeth and Mary? What do those traits tell us about the character of God?

What themes do you find in Mary's Magnificat? What different groups of people does Mary mention in her song? How do those themes and groups of people tell us about the gospel?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.