



RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 2:1–10 | Psalm 126 | Luke 1:24–27

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 11.30.25

SUMMARY

This passage opens with Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth. These women, one who was barren and had already reached old age, and the other who was still a virgin, found themselves greeting each other in a scenario that was impossible apart from God—both were pregnant! Elizabeth's pregnancy was miraculous, occurring after the point in life when she and her husband were no longer able to conceive. Elizabeth held John the Baptist in her womb, yet she recognized Mary as "the mother of my Lord," the one who would give birth to the savior of the world.

In response, Mary bursts out in a song steeped in quotes and allusions from the Old Testament. The ESV Bible lists over 40 Old Testament cross-references in her song. More than that, Mary's song echoes Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10), who gave birth to Samuel after God answered her prayer for a son. Mary's opening phrase (Luke 2:46b-47a) and Hannah's (1 Samuel 2:1) are remarkably similar. Both women give glory to God and recognize him as their savior. Mary and Hannah praise God's greatness, mercy, strength, sovereignty, and care for them individually and for Israel throughout each of their songs. The Book of Psalms is often called Israel's songbook. When Mary exclaims, "for he who is mighty has done great things for me" (Luke 2:49), she is drawing from one of the Song of Ascents, "the Lord has done great things for us" (Psalm 126:3). Although young, Mary's heart was full of God's word, allowing her to see God's faithfulness to Abraham through the son God had given to her.

GROUP QUESTIONS

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

Read through 1 Samuel 2:1-10 after reading this week's passage in Luke. What similarities stand out to you the most? Is it surprising that Mary's song follows Hannah's prayer so closely?

Songs are a powerful tool for remembering God's word. Is there a hymn or Christian song that you have drawn on in a significant moment of your life, whether joyous or sorrowful? As we enter the Christmas season, which Christmas Carol is meaningful to you?

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.