

The Gift



The Gift of Eternal Life Will the Bride Respond Like the Mother?

The Father was very careful about whom He selected to become the **Mother** of His Son.

Will He not be just as careful in selecting His **Bride**?

Will those of us chosen respond in **humility** and **faith** as Mary did?

The Apostle Luke's account in Luke 1 of the events describing the very beginning of the fulfillment of **Holyday #1**, namely, the selection and response of Mary as the **Mother** of the God's Son, have profound implications for us today who are being called to become the **Bride** of God's Son in fulfillment of **Holydays #2 and #3** – the **Spring Harvest Phase** of the Kingdom of God on earth.

This episode will cover three main aspects about this account so that we can “**Catch the Vision**” of exactly what God Our Father has in store for our generation in this last era of the Church Age. These three aspects are:

- 1) the Selection of Mary,
- 2) the Response of Mary, and
- 3) the Implications for The Bride today.

As a lead-in to these points, you may want to view “**The Nativity Story**”. I just happened to run across this on TV one night while “channel surfing” and it really inspired me to do further research into this aspect of the events involving the fulfillment of **Holyday #1** – Passover. This is a dramatic and moving account of how Mary and Joseph must have felt when given this special “**Gift**”. You may also want to read several good articles about this by John MacArthur: **Mary's Magnificat**, **Mary: An Angelic Announcement**, and **Mary: Who She Was (and Wasn't)**.

1. The Selection of Mary

Luke 1:26-38 relates the selection of Mary as the mother of God's Son. Here is the account:

*26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, **favor**ed one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found **favor** with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall 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 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. 36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

Now, I will assume you have read what is in John MacArthur's articles above, so I will not repeat that here. Besides that material, I want you to notice the references to "**The Gift**" in these verses. In Lk 1:28, it uses "**favor**ed one" (Strong's 5487 – **charitoo** – grace, from 5485), and in Lk 1:30, it uses "**favor**" (Strong's 5485 – **charis** – gift). Both of these verses use words that derive their root meaning from the word "**gift**".

So, then, we notice that it was by **grace, gift, favor**, that Mary was selected. While she certainly had some qualities that the Father granted to her that He wanted in the mother of His Son, yet she did not deserve to be selected. From Lk 1:47, we can see that she knew that she was a sinner, and needed saving, by her saying "**My Savior**". And yet we can see that she was also filled with knowledge from the Scriptures, by the phrases she spontaneously exclaimed in her final reaction to "**The Gift**" in Lk 1:46-55, after getting that inspired greeting as confirmation from her cousin/aunt Elizabeth as recorded in Lk 1:41.

From **Episode #26**, we learned that the Father uses the TYPE/ANTITYPE methodology in teaching His children about the **Two-Harvest Plan** He has for establishing His Divine-Family-Kingdom on earth. Surely then, what the Father performed in Mary's life must have **profound implications** for us today, especially in how Mary responded to "The Gift".

2. The Response of Mary

Mary's response to "The Gift" of the indwelling Eternal Life of the Son of God is commonly referred to as "**The Magnificat**". Mary "magnified" and exalted the Lord, spontaneously declaring her scripturally-held beliefs with real confidence and conviction, completely trusting that God would provide for her in accepting this awesome Gift and role in God's plan of salvation for all of mankind.

Notice that Mary did not ask for "proof", as Zechariah in Lk 1:18 did when he got the "good news" from the same angel Gabriel about having a son from God to be named "John" who would be the one "... in the spirit and power of Elijah... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" – the coming Messiah – as John testified of himself in Lk 3:16. Mary, however, did ask how this could happen since she was a virgin. This was a valid question, asked in humility, not in doubt, and the angel Gabriel answered her question that it would be a miracle, through the Holy Spirit and the power of God, that she would not have to "know" any man in order to accomplish this, and that is why He would be called the "Son of God".

Then, in order to give more credibility to this possibility, Gabriel added the news about how even her relative Elizabeth was pregnant despite her old age and being barren all her life.

As a result of this information, Mary responded, again in humility, and accepted this awesome Gift and Mission, giving consent by saying "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord;**be it done to me according to your word**".

Then, perhaps because Gabriel had added the news about Elizabeth, Mary took this as a hint, to visit Elizabeth to confide in the only one who would be in a state of mind that could accept the news of such a Gift being given to her.

This visit, as it turned out, provided further inspired confirmation of what Gabriel told Mary. Elizabeth, upon just hearing Mary's initial greeting, said her "baby leaped in her womb", and then God inspired Elizabeth to say to Mary exactly what she needed to hear, and in such a way that Mary would realize that it could only have come by the inspiration of the God with whom Mary had developed a very personal and reflective relationship with through her study of the Scriptures, and through her petitioning for help from Him with her own intimate spiritual problems.

This incident with Elizabeth, her baby's reaction to Mary's greeting, and then Elizabeth's inspired testimony, must have come upon Mary like a tsunami of spiritual power because it caused Mary to respond intently from her innermost being with a heartfelt exclamation of praise and confidence and joy, declaring the awesomely profound inspired words we refer to as "**The Magnificat**". Here is the response of the Mother of the Son of God (NAS):

46 And Mary said , My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away . 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

The above verses are explained and expounded upon very well by John MacArthur in the articles cited previously, and also by Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D., the author of the New American Standard version of the Scriptures, who has a very insightful book entitled “The Song of the Virgin”. Please obtain a copy of this material and study it intently, because **the attitude that Mary had**, as revealed by every word in her response, **is the same attitude that will be expected in each one of us** who are called and chosen by the Father to become the **Bride and Wife** of His Son – **FOR ETERNITY** – when we are given the same “Gift” of the indwelling of the Son of God and His Holy Spirit – the Gift of Eternal Life!

Will the Bride respond like the Mother?

We will discuss the answer to that question in the next section.

3. Implications for The Bride today

Implication #1: Both the Mother & Bride Receive The Gift of Eternal Life

Mary received The Gift of Eternal Life literally inside her womb in the person of Jesus Christ. Is this not a perfect TYPE for what literally happens to us today, upon repentance and baptism, when we also receive the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) from the Father (Rom 8:11; 1 Jn 4:13), and Eternal Life (1 Jn 5:13)? And does not Christ literally dwell in us, and is our hope of future glory as a literal immortal Son of God (Col 1:27; Jn 14:20; 1 Jn 3:2; 1 Cor 15:53)?

And just as Mary eventually **knew** that she was pregnant, likewise the Apostle John says that we shall **know** that we have eternal life in us (1 Jn 5:13), by the indwelling of the Divine Holy Spirit (1 Jn 4:13) that the Father has personally imparted from His very own being to impregnate and join with the “spirit in man” (Job 32:8) in order for each of us to be begotten again (Jn 3:3) as a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17). In fact, “knowing” God is Eternal Life (Jn 17:3). Notice that Mary explained to Gabriel that “I **know** no man” (KJV Lk 1:34), meaning that she was a virgin. Knowing and being “one” with God (Jn 17:21) is likened to a man cleaving to his wife as “one flesh” (Eph 5:31) and is a TYPE of the relationship between Christ and the church (Eph 5:32). It is a very intimate and personal relationship that one is certainly very aware and conscious of. David was very aware of the presence of God’s Holy Spirit in him, and feared losing it because of his deliberate sin against God (Ps 51:4,11).

However this awareness grows gradually, just like the gestation period which is used as its type (Jn 3:3-6). We must grow in grace and knowledge of the Eternal Life and Spirit of the Father and Son within us (2 Pet 3:18). We are becoming a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17) and will slowly become more self-aware of that new life in us, and will eventually cry out “Abba! Father!” when that Holy Spirit witnesses with our own spirit that we are the children of God (Rom 8:15-16).

We need to accept, nurture and cherish this Gift of Eternal Life just as Mary did. She did it as the Mother. We shall do it as the Bride. We did nothing to deserve this Gift. But we can respond as Mary did, and believe that God, by the same grace, will make that Gift grow within us so that we can eventually “give birth” (be born) to become the Bride, the Firstfruits, that will marry His Son, the Messiah, and be His Wife, FOREVER.

But when will this marriage occur? Will we be given any advance notice (Mt 25:6) so we can prepare and make ourselves ready (Rev 19:7)? Is “The Magnificat” also a **prophecy** that will alert us to the “**season**” (Acts 1:7) when this wedding will take place? These questions will be covered in this next section.

Implication #2: Both the Second & Third Holydays are Depicted in The Magnificat

Notice that The Magnificat can be split logically into two sections of **7** verses and **3** verses. Is it just a coincidence that Holyday #2 is fulfilled on the **7th** day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread which itself lasts **7** days? And that Holyday #3 has **3** verses in this inspired testimony of Mary? And that the number 3 is often associated with the Church as the 3 party in the Father-Son-Bride Divine Family Unit? And is it just a coincidence that this 7-3 split is in the exact same order that the corresponding two Holydays occur? Something to ponder about... as Mary often did about her situations.

First, let us read these verses below as they are split into these two logical selections. Then, following that, let us read other scriptures that show some important connections that support this logical split.

Holyday #2 application:

46 And Mary said , My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Holyday #3 application:

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away . 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Let us now cover the other scriptures that support this split of The Magnificat into two sections that coincide to the very next **TWO BIG EVENTS** that will occur on earth according to the Creator's **TWO-HARVEST HOLYDAY PLAN**.

Holyday #2 connections:

46 -

47 -

48 -

49 -

50 -

51 -

52 -

Holyday #3 connections:

53 -

54 -

55 -

So from the scriptures above, we can see that the split of The Magnificat into two sections that coincide with the next to holydays has a logical scriptural basis.

The question now is – WHY?

Why did the Father inspire Mary to say **these exact words**?

Could it be that these words have been “encoded” for a special **purpose, time and generation**?

Could these words also be a **prophecy**?

Could **now** be the time for them to be “decoded” (understood)?

Could we be **the generation** (Lk 21:32; Mt 14:24) that understands this prophecy because it literally is **BEING REVEALED IN THE VERY WORDS YOU ARE READING NOW**?

Now consider this as **THE HIGH PURPOSE**:

Has it has been been given to us, in this last era of Church known as Laodicea, to know the “**times and the seasons**” (Acts 1:7) in order for us to prepare to marry the Messiah, whereas it was hidden from the Apostles and the other previous Church eras **because it was not their calling to marry the Messiah on Holyday #3?**

Have we today been granted this knowledge today because we do have that calling, **because that time will occur in this generation?**

This is something to ponder very seriously...

Implication #3: Both the Mother & Bride have a Mission to Give Birth

Mary as the Mother, gave birth to the King of the Holy Nation, the Kingdom of God.

We, as the Bride, will give birth to the “Holy Nation” (Isa 55:5), the Kingdom of the Daughter of Jerusalem (Mic 4:8-13), the Kingdom of Priests (Rev 5:9-10).

Implication #4: Both the Mother and Bride have a Special Honor Lasting An Eternity

Mary will be honored as the Mother of Christ – FOREVER (Lk 1:48)!

The Firstfruits of the Spring Harvest will be honored as the Bride and Wife of Christ – FOREVER (Rev 14:1-5; 19:7-9; 21:9; 22:17)!

< to be continued >