

## **Luke 1:36-56 – The Gift of the Lord Jesus in Prose and Poetry**

Robertson, TSK, GreekLexicon, Trapp, JFB, Poole, Pulpit, Geneva, Reinecker, Gill, Henry, Calvin? 115,

Beloved in the Lord: The gift Mary was promised was given out of love – God’s love. It was the gift that met the greatest need of her life.

**It was the gift that met the greatest need of the world.**

And it was the gift whose effect would last forever.

**This gift was Jesus...God is Salvation.**

**Elizabeth spoke about this gift and Mary sang about it. **Both confirmed the existence and the effects of this gift** – **having both heard from angels**. This is the message today.**

Our headings are:

**The Gift of the Lord Jesus: Prose**

**The Gift of the Lord Jesus: Poetry**

Our goals are: **That having seen the evidence in Scripture, you will receive the gift God offers to you, and you will continually live for him and praise him for this eternal gift.**

### **The Lord Jesus: Prose**

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country **with haste**, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

#### **1. Mary excitedly went to see her old relative, Elizabeth, in the hill country of Judah.**

Gabriel had already confirmed to Mary and Joseph that Mary would have a Son who would save his people from their sins, but **she wanted to have her faith strengthened**. (Being an unmarried pregnant woman was not easy.)

How wonderful this would have been for Mary to see the impossible happen and **strengthen her faith**.

**Job 42:2** "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

And **surely she wanted to help her older pregnant relative**. We know this because she stayed there for 3 months, until John was born. Pregnancy can be debilitating for older women, let alone old women. Bones and muscles don’t always cooperate.

41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy

Spirit. 44 "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the **babe leaped** in my womb for joy.

**2. As soon as Mary greeted Elizabeth, before Elizabeth could speak, the baby leaped in Elizabeth's womb.**

This was not the regular movement of a baby that might respond to a father's voice.

The baby had never heard Mary's voice before. And he didn't make a gentle turn; **he made a powerful movement forward** – almost suggesting he was **running to the Savior** to say something. This was a miracle from God.

**Imagine how this would have strengthened Mary's faith.**

42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "**Blessed are you among women**, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 45 "**Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.**"

**3. Elizabeth assured Mary she was blessed by God and told her things only Mary would have known.**

This was the same language used to describe Jael when she killed Sisera and brought freedom to Israel.

**Elizabeth assured Mary her child was blessed by God.** How did she know Mary was pregnant? **God revealed this.**

**Elizabeth assured Mary she was undeserving of Mary coming to her house.** This had to be from God as this was a statement that would normally be made by a younger relative to an older relative. **But what gave Mary the honor was that she was the mother of Jesus.**

**Elizabeth assured Mary her faith was real – she knew Mary's heart.** Mary's faith was stronger than Zechariah – the one who was the priest. Age didn't matter. **Faith mattered.**

**Elizabeth assured Mary the prophecy Mary received would come true.** How did she know Mary had received a special prophecy, especially considering there were no prophets around Israel at the time... except God revealed it to Elizabeth?

How Mary's faith must have been lifted up! What courage she could have now, being an unwed mother and all!

#### 4. Lessons:

**a. There is some rich symbolism here. When Mary received the God's Words, Jesus was formed in her!**

Even so, when you receive God's Word, Jesus works in you and new life is formed!

**b. Those who say the Holy Spirit is a NT gift that came only after Pentecost don't know the Scriptures.** They confuse special gifts with the ever-present gift.

No one can be, no one has ever been saved, without the Holy Spirit. He was active from creation and will be for eternity.

**c. As Elizabeth pointed out, you are nothing without Jesus.**

He alone gives value to your life.

**Your big job means nothing to him.**

Your special skill is unnecessary to his work!

**He is simply pleased to use you.**

Receive the gift of Jesus!

#### **The Lord Jesus: Poetry**

46 And Mary said: "**My soul magnifies the Lord**, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

**1. Mary wrote a poem about the child – the gift to the world - that would come from her.**

**A poem is a beautiful way of speaking.** A poem shows a thought process regarding the thing about which you are speaking.

You could easily say: "You are good." But if you describe the details of that person's goodness...describe the beauty of his words and actions that make him good, it takes that statement to a whole new level.

**This poem is based on a large number of Scriptures.** Mary had a rich knowledge of Scripture.

**2. Mary made a concerted effort to not boast about herself in her poem but give credit and praise to God.**

**Mary had a new heart and she loved the one who did the transplant.**

**Zechariah was mute until his son was born from a lack of faith, Mary could sing-sing aloud.**

Look what she sang.

48 For He has **regarded the lowly state** of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will **call me blessed**. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And **holy is His name**.

**3. Mary wrote God blessed her – a lowly woman condemned in Adam.**

**She used passive tense**, showing she was the receiver of God's work. She does not claim she chose God. She claimed God blessed her...in spite of her low condition.

**She emphasized the transcendent work of a holy God reaching a lowly sinner.**  
This was a fulfillment of a promise.

**The blessing was what she produced, not who she was.**

Isaiah 29:23 But when he sees his children, **The work of My hands**, in his midst, They will hallow My name, **And hallow the Holy One of Jacob, And fear the God of Israel.**

50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From **generation to generation**.

**4. Mary wrote God's mercy was continuous, not something that just came in her lifetime.**

**God's mercy came to Adam and Eve when he killed an animal and gave them covering.**

**God showed mercy when he gave Adam and Eve the promise of Messiah.**

**God continued to show mercy to Jews and Gentiles** throughout the world.

Psalms 103:17 But the **mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting** on those who fear Him,

51 He has shown **strength with His arm**; He has **scattered the proud** in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He **has put down** the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly.

**5. Mary wrote God had the strength to do what he promised (justice and mercy)... strength in his arm...and he would use that strength to save his people and to destroy the arrogant.**

At the same time, God resists the proud.

Exodus 15:16 Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.

God brought down Nebuchadnezzar, Sennacherib, and Pharaoh, but raised up Moses, David, and Mary.

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

**6. Mary wrote God nourished his people spiritually, but those who thought they were rich he sent away hungry.**

**Some people were starving for righteousness**, and the gift—Jesus—would fill them with righteousness.

**Look at Simeon who longed for spiritual food** and when he saw Jesus, he was filled.

Luke 2:29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 **For my eyes have seen Your salvation**  
31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 **A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.**"

The needy child comes to his mother to be nursed and she has milk. The wicked one doesn't care. He thinks he can buy his way to heaven. **So the Lord sends him away empty-handed - starving.**

54 He has helped His servant Israel, In **remembrance of His mercy**,  
**7. Mary then came back to where she started and wrote: Jesus did not come because of anything good in Mary or mankind, rather, Jesus came in remembrance of God's promise to show mercy.**

And notice how she was singing about election. God helped *his* people, Israel.

55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to **his seed forever.**"  
**8. Mary wrote this gift – God's Son -would exist forever and bless all generations all over the world.**

She understood the promise of the Gospel spreading to all the nations.

Genesis 22:18 "In your **seed all the nations of the earth** shall be blessed...

56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

**9. Mary, with proof in her heart, and praise on her lips, returned home.**

**10. Lessons:**

**a. Are you able to articulate the work of Jesus Christ and why he had to come if you were asked?** How he (the Gift) was promised and how the promise was fulfilled? Do you know the nature of election? Can you talk about God's judgment on the wicked?

**b. Jesus came not because man was good or because God needed many worship; Jesus came because God was merciful.**

**c. Feed on Christ.** He is the Bread of Life. Eat of him and live. Eat of him and grow. Christmas is for receiving. The gift is salvation through the Savior.

**Conclusion:**

The gift, Jesus, Savior of the world, came from Mary and Joseph. This gift came at the right time and the right place, as directed by God. The gift had great power to do what God intended. The angel said it. Elizabeth described it. Mary sang about it.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. You have more proof Jesus is the Messiah than Mary had.**

You have her account and you now see the Gospel spreading to the end of the earth.

Do you believe it?

Believing this is the only means of salvation.

Are you receiving this truth?

Does it make you humble?

**2. Are you promoting this proof so the world can move from arrogance to humility and receive the full benefits of the gift of Jesus?**

Finally: Do you know this only way to be saved? I don't mean if you know Jesus existed. I mean, do you have a close relationship with him? If you don't, you are still in your sins. May God move you today to ask him to remove your sins and make you his child.