

Mary's Magnificat Luke 1:46-55
Sung in 2 parts with a Common theme...
That which is lowly is being lifted up
And that which was high is being cast down

1. Mary's exultation at what God is doing for her

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

(In Mary God has turned things completely upside down)

Though Mary is poor and lowly, the powerful living God is doing great things to her and through her

who has regarded the low estate of God's handmaiden.

(This God has stooped to regard Mary, and all the poor, oppressed and enslaved)

And God is bringing down the mighty from their thrones, exalting the lowly, filling the hungry with good things and sending the unrepentant away empty

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

(God is not beholden to mere human estimates of worth and esteem)

These words of the Magnificat come from a women of integrity, insight and compassion and without Sin

for God who is mighty has done great things for me,

(Mary - of all people! Don't look in the royal courts to bear the Son of God)

For Mary embodies the nobodies of the world, on whom God is lavishing rescue

and holy is God's name.

God's voice is one of hope promising that changes can and will happen, with God at the heart of those longing and working for a more just world

2. And her exultation at what God is doing for Israel

And God's mercy is on those who fear God

from generation to generation.

(Now the song acknowledges ALL people in time that will worship God)

God has shown strength with God's arm,

(What will it be like when the reversals come at the hand of this God?)

In this song she sings of the future too, when finally, peaceful justice will take root in the land among all people

has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

(to those who think they have it all together... surprise - surprise with this God)

put down the mighty from their thrones,

(Political powers & economic manipulators are never secure with this God)

and exalted those of low degree;

(those without power are the ones God will lift up)

has filled the hungry with good things,

(people will have to challenge political & economic systems with God's help)

and the rich has sent empty away.

(They have a bleak future, but they will survive)

THIS IS A GREAT PRAYER... IT IS A REVOLUTIONARY SONG OF SALVATION. IT REVEALS THAT MARY WAS NOT ONLY FULL OF GRACE, BUT POLITICAL OPTIONS TOO

God has helped God's servant Israel,

(The One who needs nothing helps those who need everything. It's all in reverse)

remembering to show mercy,

(But this is first and foremost a merciful God to all of God's children)

Yet the Magnificat challenges each of us who have ears to hear, to get in touch with the reality of our time and to honestly assess how we are embodying Christ's glad tidings to the poor

as God spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

(This Covenant relationship with God and his children began a long time ago and extends forever more)

The hope of the whole people of ancient Israel came to its culmination in Mary, who in her Magnificat praised God's fidelity to the promises he had made to Abraham and to his posterity forever – which also extends to you and me

Commentary from

UNEXPECTED NEWS – Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes

Robert McAfee Brown pages 74-81