

## THE PSALMS OF CHRISTMAS

INTRODUCTION: THE EASTERN MIND WAS HIGHLY POETICAL. POETRY TO THEM WAS A SORT OF NATIVE LANGUAGE. AND BESIDES, THEY WERE HERE UNDER THE DIRECT INSPIRATION OF THE H.S.

## I. ELIZABETH'S BEATITUDE, LK. 1:42-45

## 1. ELIZABETH HERSELF

A. LIVING IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDEA

B. CLOSE TO THE TEMPLE SERVICES

C. MOTHER OF MESSIAH'S FORERUNNER

## 2. THE UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE OF COUSIN MARY

## 3. THE SALUTATION, WHICH IS ALSO A BENEDICTION.

A. BLESSED IS MARY

B. BLESSED IS HER CHILD TO BE

C. REACTION OF ELIZABETH

(1). HONORED BY THE VISIT

(2). CONFESSES THE UNBORN CHILD TO BE HER LORD

(A). THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE TO ZACHARIAS

(B). PROPHECIES OF SCRIPTURE.

D. THE LAST 2 OR 3 VERSES INCLUDE NOT ONLY MARY BUT ELIZABETH

TOO, AND STATES A GENERAL LAW, THAT FAITH RIPENS INTO A

HARVEST OF BLESSEDNESS. (SEE JNO. 20:29).  
COULD BE TRANSLATED "BLESSED IS SHE THAT BELIEVED THAT THERE SHALL BE A PERFORMANCE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD HER FROM THE LORD."

## II. MARY'S MAGNIFICAT, VS. 46-55

1. HER SONG OF PRAISE IS THE CLIMAX OF ALL THE HYMNS OF THE OLD COVENANT, AND THE BEGINNING OF ALL THE HYMNS OF THE NEW; THE INTERLUDE BETWEEN LAW AND GOSPEL -- THE FINALE TO THE OLD COVENANT AND THE OVERTURE TO THE NEW -- LINKING SINAI AND CALVARY, THE TEMPLE AND THE CHURCH, MOSES AND JESUS.

2. SHE HASTENS TO GATHER UP THE EULOGIES BESTOWED UPON HERSELF AND TO BEAR THEM FORWARD TO HIM WHO MERITS ALL PRAISE.

## 3. WHY MARY PRAISES GOD

A. BECAUSE HE REGARDED HER LOW ESTATE

(1). AN OBSCURE VILLAGE WOMAN

(2). SO GOD LOOKED FAVORABLY ON LOST SINNERS.

B. BECAUSE "HE HATH DONE GREAT THINGS TO ME."

## 4. WHAT PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD ARE PRAISEWORTHY?

A. HIS SAVING GRACE, "GOD MY SAVIOR"

B. HIS STRENGTH AND MIGHT

C. HIS HOLINESS

D. HIS MERCY

E. HIS JUSTICE

F. HIS FAITHFULNESS TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

SHALL MARY SING ALONE?

HER SONG CAN BE YOUR OWN.

LET CHRIST BE BORN WITHIN YOUR SOUL;

HIS LIFE IN YOURS BE SHOWN.

WILL YOU TAKE MARY'S ROLE?

GIVE JESUS FULL CONTROL.

THEN EVERY SONG AND HEAV'NLY TONE

YOUR SORROWS WILL CONSOLE.



### III. THE SONG OF ZACHARIAS, VS. 68-79

1. HE SINGS OF THE "SALVATION" OF THE LORD.
2. WHO IS THE DAY-SPRING WHO VISITS THEM FROM ON HIGH,  
WHO SHINES UPON THEIR DARKNESS,  
TURNING IT INTO DAY,  
AND GUIDING THEIR EOST FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE,  
BUT THE REDEEMER, THE SAVIOR, WHOSE NAME IS WONDERFUL?
3. WHILE THIS SONG CONTAINS THE LANGUAGE OF THE O.T.,  
IT BREATHES THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW.
  - A. WHEREAS ELIZABETH BEGINS BY BLESSING MARY AND HER BABE,  
ZACHARIAS BEGINS BY BLESSING THE LORD GOD.
  - B. WITH V. 76, ZACHARIAS BEGINS TO SPEAK OF THE CHILD.
    - (1). CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE HIGHEST
    - (2). GO BEFORE THE FACE OF THE LORD
    - (3). TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION, REMISSION OF SINS.
    - (4). TO GIVE LIGHT TO THEM THAT SIT IN DARKNESS
    - (5). TO GUIDE OUR FEET.

### IV. THE SONG OF THE AGED SIMEON, 2:29-32

1. HEARD WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE TEMPLE, AS THE PARENTS  
BRING THE CHILD JESUS TO CONSECRATE HIM TO THE LORD.
2. HE TOO SINGS OF SALVATION OR "THY SALVATION"
3. THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL.  
CF. ISAIAH, "COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE."
4. SIMEON SAW NOT ONLY "THE GLORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE ISRAEL"  
BUT "A LIGHT FOR THE UNVEILING OF THE GENTILES."
5. HIS SONG IS A PRAYER FOR A PEACEFUL DEPARTURE.

SO THE FOUR PSALMS OF CHRISTMAS FORM IN REALITY BUT ONE  
SONG OF GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN IN REDEMPTION,  
OF THAT TEMPLE WHOSE ALTAR IS A CROSS, OF THAT WORLD,  
AND WHOSE VICTIM IS THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE  
WHERE COURTS AND DIVIDING LINES DISAPPEAR,  
WHERE THE HOLIEST OF ALL LIES OPEN TO A REDEEMED HUMANITY,  
AND JEWS AND GENTILES ARE ALIKE "KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD."

So. Vietnam - Dec. 67  
Cent. Ch. Augsburg Dec. 64  
H.C. Chap. #1, Dec. 13, 58  
H.M. 12/12/54

WAC Chapel 4 Dec 77  
Norwood Bp. Ch 12/19/82  
" " " 12/15+18/85