

Luke 1: 39-80 (NIV)

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. 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. 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? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 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. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. 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. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever." 56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

57 Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. 58 When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. 59 So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. 60 His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." 61 But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." 62 So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. 65 Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. 66 And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Circle similarities between the prayers. What kind of things do we learn about who Jesus is to these people through what they say about him?

Mary's Prayer

"My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me
blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great
things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear
him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with
his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud
in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their
thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good
things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his
descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Zacharias' Prayer

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people
and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^[c] of salvation
for us
in the house of his servant David
⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets
of long ago),
⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate
us—
⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath he swore to our father
Abraham:
⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our
enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without
fear
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before
him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a
prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to
prepare the way for him,
⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of
salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our
God,
by which the rising sun will come to us
from heaven
⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness

and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of
peace.”