

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORK OF JESUS

*v46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord v47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, v48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, v49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me--holy is his name. v50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. v51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. v52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. v53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. v54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful v55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers." **Luke 1:46-55***

1. THE RESTORATION OF THE HONOUR OF WOMEN IN MARY – Luke 2:46-49

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In the account of the Fall of Mankind to sin recorded in the Book of Genesis in chapter 3 we read the following: vv1-19

v1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" v2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, v3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" v4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. v5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." v6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. v7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. v8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. v9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" v10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." v11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" v12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." v13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." v14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. v15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." v16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." v17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

In this “Song Of Mary” we see a wonderful image of the beginnings of the restoration of what women lost in the Fall. In the account of the Fall in Genesis, God addresses, the serpent, (Satan), first. He then condemns the actions of Eve by greatly increasing her pains in childbearing and birth, as well as subjection to the authority of her husband.

God becomes her SALVATION. Mary says in *v47* “*and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*”

God becomes her RESTORER. Mary says in *v48* “*for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed*”

All through the Ministry of Jesus, he elevated the position of Women. While he did not choose any to be part of the Disciples, we should never forget the vital role they played all through his life and Ministry. They were saved and healed like the men. They were taught equally, think of Mary, who sat at the feet of Jesus. They ministered to Jesus at his death when no Disciples were there. The FIRST to carry the message of the RESSURECTION was a woman.

The Apostle Paul wrote in *Galatians 3:26-28* “*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, v27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. v28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***”

JESUS AND CHRISTIANITY HAS DONE MORE TO LIFT THE STATUS OF WOMEN THAN ANY OTHER RELIGION OR SYSTEM THAT EVER EXISTED.

2. **THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVERNANT** – Luke 1:50 *v50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.*

Mary reminds us that through Jesus “ALL WOULD BE SAVED.” When God called Abraham as recorded in Genesis 12, His intention was that ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH would be reached.

*Genesis 12:2-3 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. v3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth** will be blessed through you."*

One of the failings of the Nation of Israel was that they did not influence the nations around them. In reality, the nations around them started negatively influencing the Nation of Israel.

Jesus came to turn the Religious system on its head. He prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed in *Mark 13:1-2* “*As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" v2 "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."*

GOD WANTS ALL TO KNOW CHRIST

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

3. THE REMOVAL OF THE POWER OF THE EVIL ONE – Luke 1:51

v51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

JESUS CAME TO DESTROY THE VERY ESSENCE OF SIN - PRIDE

The thing that got Satan kicked out of heaven, and the thing that is at the very heart of sin is PRIDE

Ezekiel 28:1-2 Prophecy Against the King of Tyre

*v1 The word of the LORD came to me: v2 "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." But you are a man and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god. v11 The word of the LORD came to me: v12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. v13 **You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. v14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. v15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. v16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. v17 **Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. v18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. v19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.' "*****

JESUS RECORDS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR SATAN WHEN HE SENT THE 72 OUT TO WITNESS IN

Luke 10:17-18 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." v18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

4. THE REVOLUTION IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE – Luke 1:52

v52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

FRIENDS WE MUST NEVER FORGET – GOD PUTS PEOPLE IN POWER AND TAKES THEM OUT OF POWER.

Which of you would have predicted what happened to the ANC at the last election in 1994?

5. THE REDEMPTION OF THE "POOR" – Luke 1:53

v53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

THE GOSPEL IS FOR THE POOR – Jesus said that in:

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, v19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

AND IN Matthew 5:2-12

v2 and he began to teach them saying:

v3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

v4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

v5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

v6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

v7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

v8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

v9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

v10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

v11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. v12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

CONCLUSION

JESUS IS A REVOLUTIONARY IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD!

Many years ago someone wrote a very famous essay about the impact of Jesus' life called *One Solitary Life*. It goes like this:

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled more than 320 Km's from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executors gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth—his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed tomb, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty long centuries have come and gone and today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that *one solitary life*. (Evidence That Demands a Verdict, p. 140)