

***Our Great Deliverance for a Happy New Year.***

**Good Morning and Happy New Year OIC.**

The OIC Worship Team and I just sang Moses's Song celebrating the Deliverance of the people of Israel from the Egyptian Pharaoh's Soldiers and from 400 years of captivity in Egypt. In America, Psychologists report that the highest suicide rate is just after the Christmas Season. People who only have feelings without the truth to support their feelings, are prone to serious depression. Christmas without faith in God's true Gift at Christmas, Jesus Christ, leaves an empty feeling after the joyful music ceases. Christmas itself as a holiday is often worshiped instead of Christ. The media hype up many people to expect Christmas happiness; this without the under-pinning of the knowledge of God found only in God's Word and by His Spirit. Many "Christmas Songs" build up anticipation for the approaching Christmas Holiday.

Even truly born again Christians will have some of these feelings. But true Christians are not just waiting for a Happy Christmas Holiday. They are also waiting for their Risen Lord's Second Advent to earth.

Moses' song was an explosion of joy filed with relief, as the Lord, the God of Israel, delivered His people with His outstretched hand. His many miracles included the parting of the Red Sea for His people to cross over. Then returning the sea to its normal position. The entire Egyptian Army was drowned as they chased Israel. Moses underpinning for such explosive emotions of joy was that he had a close relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. As the Bible tells us in (Exodus 33.11) : *And the Lord spoke unto Moses **face to face**, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*

I have selected both Moses's and Mary's Song for this message. Both of these faithful servants of God had witnessed the miraculous power of the Almighty for Deliverance; Moses, for Israel; Mary, for the safety of Joseph, Baby Jesus and herself, and eventually realizing, for Mankind. Mary's underpinning was a life faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as a teenage girl. Like Moses, she would also be graced to see the Almighty doing miracles beyond her greatest imaginations of His Mercy, Grace, and Power.

This praise song we just sang is almost identical to Moses's song as recorded in the Bible in (Exodus 15.1-2) . It was popular in the Jesus and Charismatic Movements in America during the 1970's. I saw the parallel's of these faithful servants of God as I sensed Mary ( or Miryam's ) heart felt song of celebration as Moses felt. I was inspired to choose to expound or exegete this text or Mary's Song when I watched again this week the closing scene in the movie called *The Nativity Story*. Mary speaks her well known soliloquy or poem as the movie shows her and Joseph and baby Jesus escaping from King Herod into Egypt. How many of you here this morning have seen the movie *The Nativity Story* ?.....

The movie took some historical liberties , when in fact Mary's Song, or also called Magnificat was not as she entered Egypt, but actually at the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, It was really the emotional expression of praise and worship of God when she really believed deep in her innermost being or soul what the Angel Gabriel spoke to her back in her home town of Nazareth. The events leading to this are seen in (Luke 1.26-38).

Reading ( Luke 1.26) *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth. 27 to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and cast about in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. 31 And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS. 32 He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end." 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee. Therefore also that Holy Being who shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And behold, thy cousin Elizabeth: she hath also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible." 38 And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.*

**There is much *spiritual* meat or high protein Bible from these Scriptures. But, I have selected just a few points to exegete or draw from these verses for my message on *Our Great Deliverance for a New Year*.** The Bible clearly stresses that Mary, Jesus's mother, was a **virgin**. (v.27) *The virgin's name was Mary* (Miryam/Hebrew). Note how humble servants of God have trouble realizing just how important they are to God. In (v.29) Mary's reaction to Gabriel's words: *Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women* and in(v.29) *....she was troubled*. In ( v.32) The angel's message declared her son's Name, **Jesus**, which was His Mission, to save His People, and His Divinity: *The Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David*. This “throne” was understood by all Jews believing in the Holy Scriptures to be the Eternal, not just temporal throne. As well as stating in (v.33) *...reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end*. Mary's sense of awe did not prevent her human questioning of a virgin having a son. The angel Gabriel simply gave the truthful answer in (v. 35) *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*” This was Mary's Mission...be the Son of God's mother.

The Holy Bible thus makes Jesus divinity in a clear fact, in no way unclear. Of course, the Holy Spirit has breathed through God's Apostles other clear statements of Jesus's equality with God. Especially clear is the original Greek text in ( John 1.1) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. (Mounce)

In ( v.36) we see that the angel seems to be adding extraneous information for Mary. Well, God does not make mistakes. The supernatural birth of a child in a *barren woman, Elizabeth* was to encourage Mary's faith by a *concrete event or sign* of God's fulfilling His Words to Mary.

#### **TAKEAWAY #1**

**Faithful servant believers in God have a *humble confidence*. Only God can cause successes to not take away proper humbleness, yet success can increase ones' confidence in the Lord. Also, God chooses His humble servants for His Greatest deeds of mercy and love to Mankind. God is never offended by our questioning His personal messages to us as a child asks a father. Even as Abraham, the *Father of our Faith, regarding our Justification by Faith*, argued with God to spare his relatives in Sodom said in ( Genesis 18.27) *And Abraham answered and said, “Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, I, who am but dust and ashes. Also, like Mary, do not answer God as if you had more faith or understanding than He already gave***

**you. We may have many doubts but *decide to agree with Him*, for our faith is in Him and not in ourselves.**

We will see in the following verses what I meant in this takeaway. In (v.37) the Angel Gabriel declares a Bible verse that rings the bells of Faith for all Eternity: ***For with God , nothing is impossible.*** Mary believes this is God's Angel and God's Message for her, so in ( v.38/NKJV) she says to Gabriel: *“Behold, the maidservant of the LORD! Let it be to me according to your word.”* Yet straightaway or as soon as possible, Mary went to visit Elizabeth. You may recall that after Angels sang and declared Jesus's birth in a manger to Shepherds. They made haste to “check it out,” to see it for themselves.

In (Luke 2.15 ) : *And it came to pass, when the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.”*

## **TAKEAWAY #2**

**We who live on this side in history of the Cross when forgiveness was poured out, and on this side of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out, and on this side of the prayerful collection or Canon of the Holy Bible, when God's Word was codified for future generations ..we know that *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* in (Hebrews 11.1). Yet , when God sends his servants on a mission either incomparable or unfamiliar to other missions known to them, He seems not hesitant to give miraculous signs and wonders to help strengthen their faith. Such was Mary’s , and Moses's as well, unique and singular mission as a Human Being, to be the mother of Jesus; and Moses, the Human Instrument to Deliverer Israel.**

Regarding concrete evidence or signs, we see that the shepherds sought the manger to confirm their message from the Lord by His angels. Now Mary seeks her cousin Elizabeth, to do likewise.

After entering Zechariah and Elizabeth's house, Reading (Luke 1.41 – 42, NKJV) *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. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is it granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed as soon as the voice your greeting sounded in my ears,*

*the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” And Mary said: .....*

.....Now, my OIC friends, as Mary is beginning her famous Magnificat, I decided to change or shift my preaching gears into another culture. As you may recall on Christmas Day I declared: **Israel, even at the time of Jesus' stay on Earth, was definitely an Oriental Society, like Japan, with “the stationary character of Eastern institutions.” (Easton's Bible Dictionary)** I change “gears” not in the Truth of God's Word, but into the original Hebrew names of people and God as really spoken by these people in the record of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Jesus by Luke. The richness and uniqueness of the Oriental Culture of Israel at the time of Jesus' birth was so well presented in *The Nativity Story* movie. I think some of this cultural setting may be felt by my using the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) starting at (Luke 1.46 )

**46** *Then Miryam said,*

*“My soul magnifies ADONAI;*

*47 and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,*

Miryam ( Mary ) has seen enough to strengthen her faith. She of course, had faith, to act on the angel Gabriel's words. But now, she reaches that point of faith where she could say “I believe and I really **know that I know.**” Doubt cannot even start to lift its ugly head against such faith. Thus she expresses her deepest soul *magnifying* or praising the Greatness of the Lord ( Adonai), and (v.47) *her spirit rejoicing in God her saviour.* She had the saving faith of an old testament saint; this was faith in God but looking forward to the long awaited Messiah, Jesus, the Savior of all people. Now Messiah was to be born from her own body. Yet she, as well as all people, would have to accept His sacrifice for her sins on the Cross for deliverance from her sin, not just from King Herod's and Caesar's tyranny against Israel.

*47 and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,*

*48 who has taken notice of his servant-girl*

*in her humble position.*

*For — imagine it! — from now on, all generations will call me blessed*

Again, Miryam is totally overwhelmed that she has been given this Mission. Many young girls in Israel had imagined this honor since the promise of a Messiah born of a virgin ( in Isaiah 7.14) . *Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.* When she comments in (Luke 1.48) *For — imagine it! —*

*from now on, all generations will call me blessed!* She is still shocked that at what others had imagined, she is really experiencing.

Reading (v.49-50, CJB)

*“The Mighty One has done great things for me!*

*Indeed, his name is holy; and in every generation*

*he has mercy on those who fear him.*

Mary proclaims what she knows about God: *Mighty, Holy, Merciful*, but only to those who have a respectful *fear* of Him.

Now, in the following verses we see Mary's Universal view, correct regarding God's nature, character and power, but focused on what every Israelite was feeling under the foot of Rome and its puppet King Herod. This point of view was the result of believing the Biblical history of Israel and God's protection from physical enemies, the many tyrannical governments, surrounding Israel. Now, like all of Jerusalem and as far as Jesus traveled, the Jews are being *wooed by Holy Spirit* to take a step up to Messiah as the King after the worldly kings are judged in the End Times. It seems safe to assume that many Jews who crucified Jesus were not able to take that step. God's mercy was again demonstrated as the Holy Spirit caused thousands of these Jews to be *convinced of their sin and a heart of repentance* for crucifying Jesus, God's Son. The Bible tells us of their being Born Again. This startling revelation and repentance occurred in Jerusalem when Peter preached on the First Pentecost. (Acts 2.36-37)

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”*

### **TAKEAWAY #3**

**Moses had talked to God as a friend, *face to face*. His eternity was secured by that Old Testament faith as Abraham had; with many visible signs and wonders to encourage Moses along his Mission to deliver Israel...his walk to Glory.**

**Mary had a close relationship with God, also seeing the Archangel Gabriel *face to face*. Yet, Miryam had a more unique challenge to her Older Testament faith. She had to set aside her Jewish hope for a Messiah to set Israel free with the True Messiah who came to FIRST set all men free from sin and Satan's tyranny.**

**I pray everyone here has taken that of step from hope ONLY FOR worldly victories, to the ETERNAL VICTORY won for us at Jesus Cross.**

As we look at (Luke 1.51-55/CJB) we take note that many Bible translations show Mary's ( Miryam's ) Magnificat as poetry, as it is truly like a Psalm of David.

*(v.51) He has performed mighty deeds with his arm,*

*routed the secretly proud,*

*52 brought down rulers from their thrones,*

*raised up the humble,*

*53 filled the hungry with good things,*

*but sent the rich away empty.*

*54 "He has taken the part of his servant Isra'el,*

*mindful of the mercy*

*55 which he promised to our fathers,*

*to Avraham and his seed forever."*

*He has performed mighty deeds with his arm*, which include routing away the secretly proud; brought rulers and kings down; raised the humble, fed the hungry, and sent the rich away. These mighty works of God may be focused on the physical acts of God that Mary believed from the Scriptures, and now, her deliverance from King Herod's madness. Truly, Holy Spirit is not *gnostic spirit*. "*He has taken the part of His servant Isra'el*," emphasizing God's keeping His promises for physical deliverance of His people to dwell in safety including food, shelter, and peace. All these Promises were not really being experienced in Israel at the time of Jesus' Birth! But...let us read on...

*"mindful of the mercy 55 which he promised to our fathers,*

*to Avraham and his seed forever."* This closure of Mary's poetic praise of God, gives honor to the faith of Avraham ( Abraham ), the "gold standard" or goal of all right thinking Older Testament Believers. In other words, Israel had failed the Lord frequently, but God honored His promises to Abraham even then.

At the same time, I believe that Mary's faith made her fertile ground for Holy Spirit's planting new faith seeds pointing her beyond Israel on Earth, to the Everlasting Israel under King Jesus.

Whatever her faith pointed to, either her Baby Boy kicking out Rome and ungodly rulers like King Herod, or the perfect peace promised by Isaiah 11.6 "***The*** *wolf also shall dwell*

*with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down*

*with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall*

*lead them;* her final words in her Poem show her heart of faith as Abraham's. This faith was

fertile ground to differentiate from God's “**already and not yet**” for desire for the Messiah's Ruling Israel and the Whole Earth. Thus, we see in (Luke 1.55 ) *which he promised to our fathers, to Avraham and his seed forever.*”

Did Mary make that shift to her baby's Mission or Life Calling, if you please? She definitely spoke of God's Promises to Avraham's ( Abraham's) seed or family line forever.

It is obvious from Scripture that at some point during Mary's walk as Jesus' mother her focus of faith had shifted from a Savior of the nation Israel , to Saviour of Mankind, even her personal Saviour. Her change is clear from the Scriptures. The Bible tells how Jesus, still a young boy, stayed back in Jerusalem in the Holy Temple as His family went back home to Nazareth. When Joseph and Mary realized He was missing, they turned back, likely assuming His presence in a large number of family members in that group of travelers. When they found Him, they reacted like all loving parents would:

**(In Luke 2.48-50/NLT)**

*48 His parents didn't know what to think. “Son,” his mother said to him, “why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.”*

*49 “But why did you need to search?” he asked. “Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?” 50 But they didn't understand what he meant.*

We can be sure that Mary did learn what Jesus meant. Maybe it was not Jesus' Resurrection, even as with the faith of the Eleven True Apostles. We see Mary among the followers of Jesus waiting in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit in Power. She, as the others, were obeying her baby Boy's command in (Acts 1.4-4/ NIV):

*4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit.”*

Mary's( Miryam's) honor and blessings she deserves for all generations did not change her position at the foot of the Cross of Her Son's Crucifixion. The ground at His feet is the same level for everyone as *for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.( Romans 3.23)* All must put their trust in Him.

And we see in (Acts 1.12-14/NIV) Mary in the faithful group of Jesus' disciples.

*12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk[a] from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew;*



*James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

#### **TAKEAWAY #4**

**Only Holy Spirit can apply God's mercy and grace to guide the steps of a sinner to become a saint. Only Holy Spirit can guide a saint in his walk to Glory and keep a saint close to Jesus' during that *faith walk*. As an old song prayer goes: Thank you God for sending Jesus**

**Thank you Jesus that You came**

**Holy Spirit won't you tell me**

**More about His lovely name**

***Let Us Pray:***

#### REFERENCES

CJB - Complete Jewish Bible , Copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern.

EBD - Easton's Bible Dictionary or The *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Thomas

NIV - Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®

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