

Mary's Magnificat

Songs of the Nativity, Part Three

Luke 1:46-56

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I. Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

*I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:
Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.'"*

II. The Song

A. "When you prick him..."

Mary chooses to compose something _____ rather than sing something _____; but the _____ thing she composes is itself _____, breathing the spirit and words of songs of old. This is the genius of biblical ingenuity – building on the past, refreshing the present, and laying a foundation for the future.

B. My soul magnifies the Lord

1. Rejoicing in God (cf. Jas 5:13; Dt 8:10-20)

2. The Character of God

a. Power (cf. Ps 135:5-7)

b. Holiness

c. Mercy

C. Our God Reigns (cf. Ps 146)

What we see from Mary's words is that God's interaction with the world is not completely mysterious – it is the proud and haughty that God casts down. He will not permit those who boast and prattle about their own greatness and importance to stand. This goes for men and nations. God brings the boastful down, he scatters *“the proud in the imagination of their hearts.”* When we falsely imagine all kinds of great things about ourselves rather than ascribing whatever greatness we have to the Lord from whom it is given, He takes it seriously and breaks us.

III. Conclusion