

Faith for Community Justice I

Israel was expecting the Messiah, a Holy Spirit empowered community deliverer.

Messiah would rearrange everything in favor of the lowly.

- > The Bible is written from the view point of lowly peasants.

Shepherds, peasants and marginalized people tend to dominate the text of scripture.

I

Luke 1:46-55 Mary's Song

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify **the Lord**,⁴⁷ And my spirit hath rejoiced in God **my Saviour**.⁴⁸ For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.⁴⁹ For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; And holy *is* his name.⁵⁰ And **his mercy is** on them that fear him From generation to generation.⁵¹ He hath **shewed strength** with his arm; **He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**⁵² **He hath put down the mighty from their seats, And exalted them of low degree.**⁵³ **He hath filled the hungry with good things; And the rich he hath sent empty away.**⁵⁴ He hath helped his servant Israel, In remembrance of *his* mercy;⁵⁵ As he spake to our fathers, To Abraham, and to his seed forever.

Mary's Song proclaims a revolution which will redraw the maps socially and politically.

Mary's Song inverts the conventional role. *Vs 52-53*

God is called LORD and Savior, terms used by the Emperor. *Vs 46*

Kyrios and *Soter* were used for the emperor.

- > *Passover Justice is when God liberates the lowly and oppressed.*

II

Luke 1:67-71 Zacharia's prophecy

Salvation is restoration of society as God designed it. *Vs 69*

Salvation is liberation of the community from oppression. *Vs 68*

- > *Passover Justice, is when restorative justice comes for the oppressed.*

III

Luke 2:29-32 Simeon's Song

Luke 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart In peace, according to thy word:³⁰For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,³¹ Which thou hast prepared before the **face of all people**;³² A light to lighten **the Gentiles**, and the glory of thy people Israel.

- > *The prophet extends the grace of liberation to all people.*

The prophet expands the grace of salvation to all people *ethnos*.

Every person of every nation in all the world shall have justice.

As a Prophetic community we must embrace a world beyond ourselves.

- > *Passover justice is extended to everyone and to all nations.*
- > *Passover announces "we have agency" "God's work, Our hand"*
- > *Passover declares God involves us in this grace of liberation.*
- > *Let's do Justice! **Micah 6:8***

Nehemiah Action **May 6, 2019** Celeste Center **7:00pm**
Ohio State Fairgrounds

Bishop La Fayette Scales, Rhema Christian Center, Sunday, April 14, 2019