

The First Noel

“A Christmas Carol”

Luke 1:39-45: “At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!’”

What Are Four Things I Can Praise God for This Christmas Season?

1. I praise you God for remembering me.

- **Luke 1:46-48:** “And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord⁴⁷ 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...”

2. I praise you God for rendering aid to me.

- **Luke 1:49-50:** “...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.”

3. I praise you God for raising me up.

- **Luke 1:51-53:** “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.”

4. I praise you God for refusing to let go of me.

- **Luke 1:54-55:** “He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised to our ancestors.”