

Calvin notes that the words translated “*help*” in our version “contains an elegant metaphor: for the state of the nation was so fallen, that its entire restoration could not be expected on ordinary principles. ... Religion had been polluted in innumerable ways. The public instruction retained almost nothing pure. The government of the Church was in the greatest confusion, and breathed nothing but shocking barbarity. The order of civil society no longer subsisted. The great body of the people were torn like wild beasts by the Romans and Herod.”

Into the midst of a rebellious pagan society the Christ was to be born. Israel as a nation and a church lie prostrate, all but dead spiritually and politically. But Mary realizes the implications of the appearance of God’s only Son on the stage of history. She speaks prophetically, as if He has already attained the salvation of His people and His church:

54 *He has helped His servant Israel,*
in remembrance of His mercy,
55 *as He spoke to our fathers,*
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Her she speaks with the full assurance of God’s revelation and the eternity of His Covenant promises. What He has purposed to do will be accomplished!

As most of you know, I have slipped back into the public sector in my old place of service. It has been four years since I retired. I am sure you will not be surprised when I tell you – there have been precious few improvements in the society of young people, or older people either for that matter. And for many years, I have noted that the health of the church in general is declining. Economically, corporate socialism seems to be thriving and the political scene still much in question. And yet, in spite of all the worldly challenges – God is still saving His people, one by one. He has not forgotten the spiritual seed of Abraham in the least. I have been encouraged to meet a handful of the Lord’s children who are not polluted by the world. And even though life is always a struggle – just as Mary realizes and passes along to us in the phrases of this song: God is faithful in every time and place. So therefore, let us be joyful and take hope in His Son: our own Lord Jesus Christ, today and always. Amen.



PREACHING RESOURCES

Calvin, John: [Commentary on the Gospel of Luke](#).
Schaeffer, Francis & Edith. [Everybody Can Know](#)
The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.



Permission granted to redistribute unedited versions with this notice.

<http://www.tulip.org/tac/heb090.htm>

To Subscribe or Unsubscribe go to:

<http://www.four.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/ccrlst/>