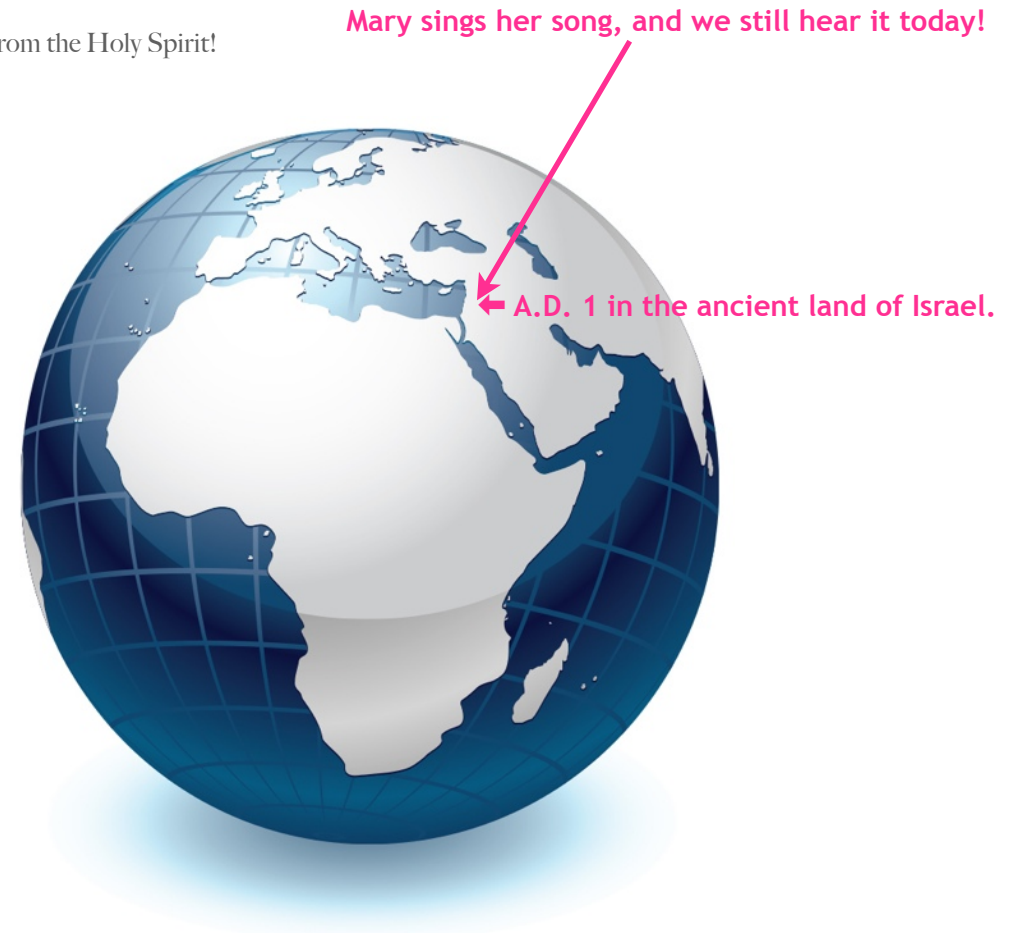


### Magnificat / The Canticle of Mary / Mary's Song ...

And Mary said:  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;  
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.  
For He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
And holy is His name.  
And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with His arm;  
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,  
And exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
And the rich He has sent away empty.  
He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy,  
As He spoke to our fathers,  
To Abraham and to his seed forever.  
(Luke 1:46-55)

### Mary receives and exults in her calling ...

Mary embraces her calling as she receives this gift from the Holy Spirit!  
Mary gives God the glory ...  
Her spirit rejoices ...  
She bows in humility ...  
And recognizes God's blessing ...  
She praises God's might ...  
Proclaims God's holiness ...  
And His mercy ...  
Basks in God's strength ...  
God deals with the proud ...  
God puts down the mighty ...  
God exalts the lowly ...  
He fills the hungry ...  
And the rich He has sent away empty ...  
God helps Israel as he remembers mercy ...  
Mercy ... As He spoke to our fathers ...  
Mercy ... To Abraham and to his seed forever.  
(Luke 1:46-55)



### Mary shows up ...

When Mary hears her name she answers the call to service just as we have seen Joseph do the last two weeks. Just as we should do. No. Our tasks will not be as momentous as giving birth to the Son of God or providing a home for him. But God will give us opportunities to "show up" in his Name in the middle of the conflict on the dark planet to bring glory to his Name. Remember. Mary was a teenage girl who to the world was merely pregnant and unmarried. And Joseph was a young carpenter, a good guy, who just wanted a normal, married life. But when the crisis/blessing hit, they believed God and his messengers over everyone else, including themselves. They listened to God and received his calling. Then they stepped out in faith and obedience. Same thing today.