

## *A Reflection on the Visitation*

### *Luke 1:39-45*

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth in the Gospel of Luke is analogous of the merger between the Old and New Covenants. The text creates a bridge whereby the journey of God's messenger unites the wombs of two mothers, reveals the identity of Mary, and establishes the relationship between their sons, John and Jesus. Together, each of these encounters serves to accomplish the merger between the Old and New Covenants.

The interweaving of the characters from the visitation account indicate from the beginning, Luke's intention to establish the key relationships. Throughout the scene, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth brings the rich development of relationships together between the old and new covenants of the Lord. The fulfillment of the law and prophets being revealed, brings about great joy, even before the Lord's birth. Zechariah and Elizabeth are iconic figures of the Mosaic Law. Mary, the virgin mother chosen by God to carry Christ into the world, brings hope, joy, and new life to these iconic figures of the Old Covenant. This eschatological encounter marks the birthing of a new era; the New Covenant with God being realized.

This encounter continues in the world today as well, in the lives of those who accept and believe in Christ as Lord and Savior. I have experienced many visitations from the Lord during my life that have brought me to my feet in praise, and to my knees in humble adoration. The encounter of the two mothers communicates an intergenerational acknowledgment that God continues to birth new life and hope through us, who are his messengers today. Jesus, the blessing within Mary's womb, continues to be implanted within human life and creation, the unceasing incarnation of Christ in the world.