

## Advent – Mary

**Luke 1:26-27** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

- The historical account of the announcement of Jesus to Mary.
  - This is not a story. This is not based on a true story.
  - The birth of Jesus is accurate as the Bible recounts it. Note that it records real times and real places with real people that we have in historical records.
- This account begins with a supernatural event. Gabriel, an angel, visits Mary.
  - Yes, there are angels.
  - Yes, they still bring messages from God.
    - **Acts 5:17-20** Then the high priest rose up, and all those who *were* with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, <sup>18</sup> and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. <sup>19</sup> But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."
- We can and should expect the supernatural in our lives. We should believe in angels even if we have not been visited by one. Yet.
- And we should expect God to still speak to us.

As a side note – This message is to Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph.

- Mary is just out there living her life.
- There are no prophecies saying Messiah would be born to an engaged woman. Just to a virgin.
- Mary did not know beforehand that this would be her path.
- Yet somehow she did not mess up God's will!
  - Perhaps it is much more difficult to mess up God's plan for your life than you think.

- Even if we get into disobedience, God's will is more like a GPS device than a target.

**Luke 1:28-30** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

- Gabriel tells Mary 3 things. She is highly favored, The Lord is with her, she is blessed.
- All of these are true for the same reason they were true of Mary.
- We tend to think of Mary as very special, as she is the Mother of Jesus. And that is true. She is the only one to get that honor.
- But do you ever think that about others and have troubles thinking something like this about yourself?
- We also have these spoken of us. Because Jesus' life is in us.
  - Highly favored = *charitoo*, from *charis* – grace. Basically full of grace.
    - **Titus 3:7** that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
    - **Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted (highly favored) in the Beloved.
  - The Lord is with you
    - **1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?
  - We are blessed by God
    - **Ephesians 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,
- In fact, listen to this passage from Ephesians 1
  - **Ephesians 1:3-6** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before

the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- This makes us sound just like Mary – we are blessed with every spiritual blessing, we are chosen, we have been given grace and favor, we are with Him and He with us by adoption by Jesus to Himself.
- **The supernatural things of God are not just for a few special people. If you are in the Kingdom, you are that special person.**

**Luke 1:30-33** Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

- Gabriel gives Mary the message.
  - This message of what will be is actually recounting several prophecies from the Old Testament.
  - He will be great, called Son of the Highest, of the line of David and will have the throne of David, reign over Israel, and His Kingdom will be forever.
  - The life of Jesus fulfills over 300 prophecies.
  - His birth alone fulfilled around 10 prophecies (and no one besides God can control circumstances of being born)
  - No other religious leader has ever had their birth prophesied.

**Luke 1:34-35** Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;*

therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

- How can this be since I do not know a man?
- This is the virgin birth.
- The Bible declares this a virgin birth, where Mary is the mother, and God is the Father, and no – we do not know how that works. Probably God just put what was needed directly into Mary to cause her to become pregnant.
- Some people try to say it was a virgin birth in that virgin was a word sometimes used for single daughters still living at home.
- But Mary explicitly says – I have never known a man. And Joseph is also quite surprised by the news.

**Matthew 1:22-23** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, "God with us."

### **Why is belief in the virgin birth so critical?**

1. Since the Bible says it happened, not believing it means not believing the Bible is infallible. If the Bible is not accurate, we cannot trust it.
2. Without the virgin birth, Jesus is not God.
  - a. How can Jesus be God, if God is not the Father?
3. Without the Virgin birth, Jesus could not have fulfilled the law.
  - a. When we are born into the line of Adam, we are born into sin.
  - b. Anyone born of a human father is born into the line of Adam.
    - i. **Romans 5:12-14** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— <sup>13</sup> (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

- c. Since Jesus was not born into the line of Adam, he was not born into the curse of sin
  - i. **Romans 5:17-19** For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.
4. For Jesus to have conquered sin, death, hell and the grave – He must have been God, not born of sin, yet also human since it was a human that caused the problems in the first place. This could only be accomplished through a virgin birth.

**Luke 1:38** Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- What a response!
- Maidservant – Voluntary female slave.
- Let it be according to your word
  - Not my will – yours
  - Not what I want, what you want
  - I will abandon my plans for my future to take on this role.
- Mary probably dreamed of what her future would look like. This was probably not in it.

**Luke 2:34-35** Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against <sup>35</sup> (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

**Isaiah 53:3-5** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Mary knew the prophecies. Mary had somewhat of an understanding of what was coming.

But to be involved in the supernatural plans of God, you must submit entirely to Him. As Mary did.

Submit to God. You will be blessed beyond what you can imagine.