

## Luke 1:26-38, Marked By God

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

1. Luke placed the story of the announcement of Jesus' birth right after the announcement of John's birth. By doing so, he highlighted the similarities and differences between the two births.

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the **angel Gabriel** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

**1) The angel Gabriel had also appeared to the prophet Daniel more than five hundred years earlier (Daniel 8: 15-17; 9: 21).** Each time Gabriel appeared, he brought important messages from God.

#### 2) Types of Angels:

- Heb. 1:14 *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

a) **Messengers:** Gabriel

b) **Seraphim:** "fiery or burning ones" - Only mentioned in Isaiah (least mentioned in Scripture)

- i) Isaiah 6:2-3 - *Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

c) **Cherubs:**

- i) In Ezekiel 10:20-21 they are described as having a head that has four faces, in addition to having four wings with what looks like human hands under their wings.
- ii) God placed cherubim on the east side of the Garden to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24)

d) **Archangels:** Greek word "archangelos", which means "chief angel". The only archangel directly named in the Bible is Michael. Two references are made to him in the New Testament.

- i) 1 Thessalonians 4:16 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*
- ii) Jude 1:9 *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*
- iii) Revelation 12:7 *Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.*

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him **Jesus**. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father **David**, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

- 1) **Jesus: Heb. Yeshua** - was a common alternative form of the name יְהוֹשֻׁעַ (Yəhōšūa' – The Greek derivative is Joshua) in later books of the Hebrew Bible and among Jews of the Second Temple period. Yeshua in Hebrew is a verbal derivative from "to rescue", "to deliver". Often translated "He saves" = Salvation.
  - a) **Tetragrammaton:** eshua is the Hebrew form of the Tetragrammaton YHWH (the Name for God). Ultimately meaning Yahweh Saves!
  - b) **SOZO:** Greek Save=SOZO is a Greek word translated "saved, healed, delivered." The word is used over 100 times in the New Testament to refer to the "complete package" of salvation, deliverance and healing.
    - i) The basic meaning of rescuing one from great peril. Additional nuances include to protect, keep alive, preserve life, deliver, heal, be made whole.
  - c) **SOTER:** Greek word for Savior = Soter, which is where Soteria comes from, Salvation.
- 2) **David:** Jesus was born in the line of David and thus could be a king to reign over Israel forever. His will be an eternal Kingdom that will never end. God had promised to continue the dynasty of David forever. David's earthly dynasty ended four centuries after his reign, but Jesus Christ, a direct descendant of David, was the ultimate fulfillment of this promise (Acts 2: 22-36). Christ will reign for eternity— now in his spiritual Kingdom and in heaven, and later, on earth, in the new Jerusalem (Luke 1: 30-33; Rev. 21) Also see: 2 Sam. 7:16; Ps. 89:3-4; Is. 9:6-7; Jer. 33:17.

<sup>34</sup> "**How will this be,**" Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the **Son** of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

- 1) **How will this be:** Zechariah expressed unbelief when he asked how this could happen? But Mary was not coming from a place of unbelief. Unlike Zechariah who desired a sign as proof of the angel's words (1:18), Mary's question displayed her faith. She merely asked how this miraculous event could occur because she was a virgin.
- 2) **Son:** The word "Son" was a designation of the Messiah, the long-awaited Savior (Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:9-16; Psalm 2: 7; Isaiah 7:14; 9: 1-7; 11: 1-3).

- 3) **Destined from the Womb:** Like Jesus, your plan was destined from your mother's womb. God wrote His plan for your life before you were born. From the place you were created in Heaven is the place you will return to give account for your life.
- a) **Psalm 139:13** *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; **all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.***
  - b) **Jer. 1:5** *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*
  - c) **Gal. 1:15** *But when God, **who set me apart from my mother's womb** and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.*
  - d) **Isaiah 44:2** *This is what the LORD says— **he who made you, who formed you in the womb**, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.*
  - e) **Isaiah 49:1** *Listen to Me, O islands; pay attention, O distant peoples: **The LORD called Me from the womb**; from the body of My mother He named Me.*
    - i) You were called from the Womb.
    - ii) You do not get to decide what you want to be in life—God decides that.
    - iii) It's your responsibility to discover God's will for your life.
    - iv) You must pray and ask God what He has for you here to do?
    - v) You will give account of your life from the place you were created.

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "**May your word to me be fulfilled.**" Then the angel left her.

- 1) **Faith:** Mary was coming from a place of faith.
  - a) **This is the attitude God wants us to adopt for standing on:**
    - i) His written Word (logos);
    - ii) The spoken word (Rhema)
    - iii) The word He has for our individual lives;
    - iv) The word He has for corporate lives.