

Mary, The Mother Of Jesus

Intro: Most, if not all of us here this morning, are familiar with the Christmas story. God dispatched the angel Gabriel to a virgin named Mary, with the message that she was to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit. I have preached this Christmas story for the past 10 years, and each year I struggle with what I can add to what I have said last year. I remind God that you all have heard this story every Christmas since you were a child. But alas, God reminds me that this is His story, and He wants me to tell it and retell it, because it brings Him glory. The story of Mary's miraculous conception of the Son of God, is one that thrills my heart. **This my friends is what Christmas is truly about.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to fulfill His promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15, that He would send a Redeemer, born of a virgin, to save His people from sin (Isa. 7:14-15; 9:6).

In our remaining minutes together I would like to look once again at Mary, whom God selected to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. Turn with me in your Bible if you will to Luke 1, verse 26, and follow along as I read the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary concerning the virgin-conception, and birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38—

Luke 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. 36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary

said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Luke’s account here in chapter 1, verses 25-38 provides most of the details concerning the miraculous virginal conception of God’s eternal Son, Jesus. Matthew chapter 1 provides us with the details of Gabriel’s appearance to Joseph, which we will look at next week, Lord willing.

I. Setting Of Gabriel’s Appearance To Mary (vv. 26-27)

Luke’s opening reference to the “sixth month” here in verse 26, refers to the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy with John. As we saw last week, the angel Gabriel had first appeared to the elderly priest Zacharias while performing the priestly offering of incense in the temple (Luke 1:5). We learned in verse 7 that Zacharias and Elizabeth had no child, because Elizabeth was barren. Gabriel informed him that his prayer had been heard, and his wife Elizabeth was going to bear him a son, and he was to name him John. This child is none other than John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ (v. 17).

II. Gabriel’s Announcement To Mary (vv. 28-33)

So it was in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, that the angel Gabriel was sent from God with another message. This time he comes to Nazareth, with a message for a virgin named Mary. **v. 28** And coming in, he said to her, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” Mary was highly favored by God, she was the recipient of His grace in being chosen to bear His Son. **v. 31** “And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.”

Gabriel predicted 5 things about Mary’s Son, vv. 32-33

1. **He will be great.** Jesus is truly Great in the eyes of all who have received Him as Savior from Sin and death. He is God’s gift to mankind. The name Jesus or *Jeshua*, means “**Yahweh Saves.**” Jesus was and is the promised Deliverer, who came to provide salvation to all who believe in/receive Him.
2. He will be called **the Son of the Most High**. The designation “**Most High**” is a reference to Yahweh, the God of Israel. The fact that Mary’s Baby was to be called **the Son of the Most High** pointed to His equality with Yahweh. Paul tells us in **Colossians 1:15** And He, *speaking of Christ*, is the image of

the invisible God, Who is the Creator of all things, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible, all things have been created by Him and for Him. . . . and in Him all things hold together. Paul goes on to declare in **Colossians 2:9** For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form. Mary must have been staggered by the angel Gabriel's announcement.

The next three predictions refer to God's promise to David in **2 Samuel 7:13-16** that His heir would be the Messianic King, Who would rule on his throne forever.

3. **The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.**
4. **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and**
5. **His kingdom will have no end.**

The ultimate fulfillment of these promises will be realized when Jesus returns to this earth and establishes His reign over Israel, as well as the whole earth, in His Millennial Kingdom.

III. Mary's Perplexity And Gabriel's Explanation (vv. 34-38)

A. Mary's question (v. 34)

Mary was perplexed at Gabriel's stupendous announcement. She responded in verse 34, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" In other words, "How could a virgin possibly conceive without the aid of a man?" Mary, although engaged to marry Joseph, had never been intimate. She was a virgin.

B. Gabriel's explanation (v. 35-37)

Gabriel goes on to explain that her conception would be a unique miracle, performed by the Holy Spirit. I don't know if you have ever noticed this before, but the conception of Christ in Mary's womb was actually the work of the Trinity. All Three Members of the holy Trinity were involved. Look at verse 35,

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "***The Holy Spirit*** will come upon you, and the power of ***the Most High*** will overshadow you (God the Father); and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called ***the Son of God***. As you can see, this was the work of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit, the Father, and the Son were all involved in this miraculous conception.

Gabriel went on to inform Mary that her cousin Elizabeth had also miraculously conceived a son in her old age, v. 36

36 “And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

Then he added in verse 37, “For nothing is impossible with God.”

Nothing is impossible with God! We must always keep this in mind.

How did the universe come to be? God simply spoke and created all their is. How are we going to be raised from the dead? The answer, again, is God. How could old Zachariah and his barren and aged wife Elizabeth have a son through natural human reproductive processes? The answer is God. How could a virgin conceive and give birth to the Savior, Jesus Christ, who is eternal God? The answer is God. God is sovereign, and He does what He pleases. **Nothing is impossible with God.**

C. Mary’s response (v. 38)

38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mary responds to Gabriel’s message by humbly assenting to God’s will. She refers to herself as the bonds slave, the servant, literally handmaiden of God. This was a declaration of faith in God to carry out His plan concerning her. She trusts herself completely to God, who has the power to bring His plan to pass.

IV. Mary’s Song (Luke 1:39-56)

39-40—After the angel Gabriel departed, Mary went with haste to Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant. **v. 41** When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, an amazing thing happened. The baby leapt in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to prophesy. Through the Spirit of the living God, Elizabeth and her unborn son, John, confirmed the angel Gabriel’s words to Mary, that she was going to be the mother of God’s Son, Jesus.

When Mary heard Elizabeth's greeting, she too was filled with the Holy Spirit and Scripture came pouring out of her heart. This great worship hymn of Mary commonly referred to as the *Magnificat*, is Mary's song of praise for God's choosing her to be the mother of His Son. Of particular importance is Mary's knowledge of the Old Testament scriptures. Her song consists almost entirely of Old Testament allusions and quotations. This would suggest that she was raised by very devout parents. Mary's song of praise is similar to Hannah's song of praise in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

First, Mary praised God for bestowing His special favor on her, vv. 46-50

46 "My soul exalts the Lord,
 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
 48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant;
 For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.
 49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me;
 And holy is His name.
 50 "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION
 TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

Mary's spirit exalted and rejoiced in God **her Savior**: suggesting an intimate acquaintance with Him. She spoke of His faithfulness (v. 48), power (v. 49), holiness (v. 49), and mercy (v. 50).

Second, Mary praised God for bestowing His special favor on Israel, vv. 51-55

51 He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
 He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.
 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones,
 And has exalted those who were humble.
 53 HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;
 And sent away the rich empty-handed.
 54 He has given help to Israel His servant,
 In remembrance of His mercy,
 55 As He spoke to our fathers,
 To Abraham and his offspring forever.

Mary's *Magnificat* rehearses the wonderful things God had done in choosing her to bear His Son, the Messiah. He would radically reverse the common order of things, debasing the proud and exalting the humble. He blesses generation after generation of those who love and obey Him, but curses the proud who reject Him.

Closing Story:

On March 23, 1743, when Handel's "Messiah" was first performed in London, the king was present in the audience. When the performance got to the moving "Hallelujah Chorus," with its words, "For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," the whole audience, including the king, sprang to its feet, and remained standing through the entire chorus. From that time, it became a custom to stand during that chorus whenever it is performed.

But the custom of the British monarch standing changed over time. About 100 years later, when Queen Victoria had just ascended the throne, she went to hear "The Messiah." Those in her court who knew protocol had instructed her that she must *not* rise when others stood at the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus." So, as the singers were exclaiming, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! For the Lord our God omnipotent reigneth," Victoria remained seated--but with great difficulty.

Finally, they came to that part of the chorus where they proclaim Christ King of kings and Lord of lords. Victoria could stay seated no longer. She rose and stood reverently with her head bowed before the Lord who alone is great.

Invitation: God loves us and has made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and reconciled to Himself. It is through the virgin-born Son of Mary, the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have never accepted Christ as your Savior, we would like to encourage you to accept Him this morning? God wants to work with you, and He will if you will humble yourself and accept the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be your Savior this Christmas!

We would like to give you an opportunity to receive Jesus as your Savior as we close in prayer. If you know Jesus as your Savior, but have never surrendered your life to Him, we would invite you to do that right now.

Join me in prayer

Closing Song: *You're Here!*

Reminder: Christmas dinner here next Sunday immediately after service.