

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LUKE 1:26-38



LESSON: PROPHECY OF JESUS' BIRTH — December 1, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

Coming from verse 13 of chapter, 1 when Zacharias asks the angel a question: "*Whereby shall I know this?*" – referring to Elizabeth bearing a son. He then informs the angel of he and his wife's old age (1:18). It was like asking for a sign from the angel. The angel identifies himself to Zacharias: He's the one (angel) who stands in the presence of God; he is the one (angel) who's sent from God to speak to him and show him these glad tidings. This was the only sign and answer he was going to give Zacharias. This was not the time to challenge the angel of God after such good news. Now, Zacharias will become dumb; silent and not able to speak until these things proclaimed by the angel would be performed—the day of the birth of Zacharias' son. Why? Because *Zacharias did not believe the angel's words to be fulfilled at its proper time!* Zacharias had asked the very same question asked by Abraham (Gen.15:8), and Mary (Lk.1:34), but Zacharias asked in a spirit of unbelief! Zacharias being a priest who also stands in the presence of God in the temple of the Holy of Holies should have known God was speaking to him! The angel had already said that "*your prayers have been heard.*" The Word of God had come to him by the angel who stands in the presence of God; and speaks the Word of God. He now speaks to him, but Zacharias could not conceive it. It's not enough to pray but we must also believe that what we've prayed for will be answered by God. He could not spread his doubt because the angel had made him silent. Do we look at the circumstance or do we look at God, who is able to do all things well in His timing (season)? (1:18-20).

The people had gathered and were waiting for Zacharias to come out of the Temple from doing his priestly duties, for he had been in there for an unexpected length of time; longer than usual. He went into the Temple able to talk, but he did not come out in the same way. He was supposed to lead the people in a benediction, but now, he was not able to speak a word. All he could do was motion with his hands. Because he had tarried so long in the Temple, they assumed he displeased God and was killed. But now, they knew he had seen a vision in the Temple. Each priest had a certain amount of time to accomplish his work in the temple (about a week) and Zacharias fulfilled the number of his days of administration before returning home. And now at the proper time Zacharias's wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she did not go out in public. Notice two things:

1. Zacharias had completely lost his voice, yet he fulfilled his duties. He did what he could responsibly and faithfully. We know after returning home he did a lot of praying and meditating because of his experience in the Temple. He is not able to talk with Elizabeth or with others on a continuance basis.
2. Elizabeth hid herself. Why? For the same reason any of us would withdraw after being visited by such an angelic being with so great a message. She needed time alone with God to absorb all that was happening and to prepare herself for the rearing of one who was destined to be so greatly used by God. This reminds me of (Judges 13) when the angel of the Lord appeared to the barren wife of Manoah before appearing to Manoah himself, to proclaim conception of



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a son who was to be a Nazarite unto God. His son's name was Samson. They as parents also needed to know how to raise their son. **The point is:** the call to special service necessitates a period of preparation, especially in the presence of God. Time alone with God for meditation and prayer for five months was essential for Elizabeth! After that time, she became public to everyone. She was now able to say that God had taken away her disgrace of having no children. Now, people would stop thinking that God was punishing her (**1: 21-25**).

LESSON: I. AN UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE LUKE 1:26-29

1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,—Elizabeth is now six months pregnant. There is no boundary for God's Word to be sent, for Gabriel was the same angel that had spoken to Zacharias in the Temple in Jerusalem; and now he's sent to the city of Galilee where Mary lives —Nazareth. Both received the wonderful announcement of the expectation of each one's son.

1:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. This was Gabriel's second mission surrounding the birth of two cousins; one old, one young. This was why John was to come first—he was to announce the Savior of the world! Gabriel speaks to Mary, a virgin (never been touched sexually by a man) engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. This birth was only going to be done miraculously! Mary's conception of Christ was to be the incarnation of an already existing person. WOW! There are three steps involved in a Jewish marriage:

1. **The engagement/ espoused:** the parents usually determined who a child was to marry—often at a very early age.
2. **The betrothal:** at a determined time the couple agreed with the engagement. If they followed through, the betrothal was immediately binding. A legal divorce was thereafter required. The betrothal lasted one year. When Joseph discovered Mary's pregnancy, they were already betrothed to one another.
3. **The marriage:** the consummation of the couple took place. It should be noted that in Joseph's case consummation did not occur until after Jesus' birth.

Both Mary and Joseph were direct descendants of King David. Matthew's genealogy gives Jesus' legal or royal lineage through Joseph. Mary's ancestral line is recorded in Luke 3:23-38. Also look at (Matt.1:1, 16, 20; Lk.2:4).

1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. Gabriel's salutation to Mary: "*Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*" His encouraging words in this verse:

1. **"Highly favored!"** This meant that Mary was chosen for a unique privilege; found special favor and honor with God no matter where Mary had to walk. **by God**
2. **"The Lord is with thee."** Mary's life had so pleased God, to the point that His favor rested upon her no matter where she had to walk. What she had to do, God promised to be with her.
3. **"Blessed among women."** It did not say above women, but among women for the angel knew the awesome honor of whom she would carry in her womb, and give birth to.

1:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner

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of salutation this should be. **First**, Mary was troubled when she saw the angel. You could imagine that he was gigantic and dazzling in appearance. **Second**, Mary was troubled at the angel's saying. She couldn't understand how God could so favor her. She never dreamed she was anyone special or expected this favor. So, she was trying to figure out what kind of salutation this was.

II. AN UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT LUKE 1:30-33

1:30 And the angel said unto her, **Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.** "*Fear not*" was the same exclamation the angel had made to Zacharias. The angel was still in the annunciation (announcement) phase to Mary, but he had to bring peace by saying— "*Fear not*", Why? - Because he wanted her to know that God was pleased with her; there was favor upon her life! And it was nothing to be afraid of.

1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **Jesus**. When the angel said "*behold*", he wanted Mary to really regard, consider, comprehend as something new, unexpected, and as true. This young girl that was espoused to Joseph is hearing the angel Gabriel say to her, that "she will conceive in her womb a son"; have a baby, "and his name will be Jesus." "Jesus" came from the name Joshua and meant "Savior." Many people in that day named their baby "*Jesus*" knowing that God had promised a Savior and hoping their child would be the one. But there will only be one Savior and He is coming through Mary. Don't forget Mary is a virgin—never been touched by a man.

1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:— Five things the angel said: The angel is still speaking about the Son Mary will have: "*He will be great and called the Son of the Highest.*" We know the Highest of course is God. Therefore, Jesus is the Son of God. **Third**, God will give Him the throne of his father David. Jesus is the Son of David, a descendant; offspring of David; therefore, the throne is not given to Him by ordinary men, but by God Almighty. This throne promised to David, is given to him in his seed, Christ, not the temporal throne, on which Christ did not sit, but the spiritual throne, of which David's temporal throne was a mere type; a mere shadow. Mary heard all of this. This would by no means to be an ordinary baby. His name is great; His descendants are great; and His throne is great! Yes, that would be hard to comprehend that she was chosen by God for such a task!

1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. **Fourth**, Jesus will also rule over the house of Jacob forever with a kingdom (fifth) that will have no end! God promised David that his throne (his rule) would never end (2 Samuel 7:16). This has both a literal and spiritual meaning; and a temporal and eternal meaning. Jesus reigns over physical Israel (the Jewish nation) and spiritual Israel (the believers in Christ). Every ruler in this temporal world is replaced, but Jesus' reign is forever.

III. AN UNEXPECTED EXPLANATION LUKE 1:34-37

1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?**— Mary was expected to believe the miraculous, but she was puzzled. She was not doubting or asking for some sign like Zacharias (v.18). Zacharias asked, "*Whereby shall I know this?*" meaning, what sign shall you give me? This is of a different connotation than what Mary asked: "*How shall this be...?*" Mary was asking for information out of curiosity. She was single and had never known a man sexually. She and Joseph had



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not gotten together physically. How could she possibly bear a child without being with a man sexually? Mary was thinking of the physical and not the spiritual.

1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.** The angel speaks of this conception:

- **"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee."** The operation of conception is by the Holy Spirit. He shall descend from Heaven. It would be ¹God's glory coming down on a place or person. It would be God's power, through the Holy Spirit, making it possible for Mary to be impregnated and have the Son of God. God is to be the Father of Jesus, and Mary is to be the mother. Mary furnishes the body and God provides the Spirit. Mary is the vessel for incubation of a deity and God's power is the divine incarnate of life through the Holy Spirit. This is the only miraculous conception in the Bible.
- **"The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee."** "Highest" here means the Eternal Father. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word. The Word takes on the form of flesh and dwells among us. The mother's body is miraculously overshadowed and the child's body is prepared by the Spirit of God. The power of the Highest causes her to conceive (the Word made flesh) the Son of God in her womb without the help of man. He shall be called the Son of God. Wow!

This shows that Jesus would be the true Son of the Most High by the Holy Spirit. But, He will also be identified as the son of (Joseph) and Mary. Mary's betrothed to Joseph would be Jesus' legal father, not his biological father in the earth realm. He will be both God and man (God clothed in man-suit); Gabriel points out that the baby would be a "holy thing" and would not share the sinful human nature of man. This is no ordinary conception and no ordinary baby!

1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. Again, "Behold", the angel wanted Mary to really regard, consider this, and comprehend as something new, unexpected, and as true. Her cousin Elizabeth in her old age has conceived a son. She had been childless, but now she's six months pregnant. This only demonstrates God's miraculous power to do the unexpected, and for her to believe such a thing could happen even for her.

1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. Things of this nature are impossible for man to do, but with God, nothing shall be impossible. This can only be possible for God to accomplish!

IV. AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE LUKE 1:38

1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. Mary's response was not wait, let me see; let me check with my intended. Her response was "Behold" (I really regard this as true). She refers to herself as a handmaid. A handmaid was the lowest kind of female servant which shows how much Mary trusted God. She only knew God was asking her to serve Him! Now she is God's handmaiden revealing to Him, "be it into me according to thy word." The Messenger brought a word that would not come back void; brought a word that was not impossible for God; brought a word that would enable the Son of God to be legally in the

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earth realm! Hallelujah! And at Mary's word of willingly accepting what the angel said, the angel departed from her.

SUMMARY:

When Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy God sends His angel to a virgin by the name of Mary in the town of Nazareth. Mary had not yet had sexual contact with any man. She was engaged to be married to a man by the name of Joseph. In Jewish culture, at that time, a man and woman were pledged or engaged to each other for a period of time before the actual marriage. The engagement period was much more binding than an engagement period today, for the two were considered husband and wife except that they did not live together until after the wedding. The angel Gabriel is sent from God to Mary, a young virgin to let her know that she is highly favored by God, the Lord is with her, and she was blessed among women. Why? – Because God was pleased with her (1:30); because God already knew she would believe and be obedient (1:45); and because of Old Testament prophecy of the son (the promised Messiah) would be of a virgin birth (Is.:14). As Mary sees the angel, she was troubled at his saying, for she was trying to figure out what kind of salutation this was (1:26-29).

Therefore, angel calms her down by saying "*Fear not*", she has found favor with God. Mary will conceive in her womb and bear a son and call His name Jesus. He will be great; the Son of the Highest; He shall be given the throne of his father David; have reign over the house of Jacob, and His kingdom shall have no end, for it will be an eternal kingdom (1:30-33).

Mary asked, "*How shall... I know not a man?*" - The angel answered that this would be accomplished by God's Holy Spirit's power of the Highest overshadowing her (not by man). The baby would be a holy thing and shall be called the Son of God. Her cousin Elizabeth's had been barren, but she has conceived a son in her old age, and is now six week's pregnant. Then he tells her, "*with God's great power nothing was impossible!*" (1:34-37).

Mary was humble and submissive unto the word of the angel, as she declared, as thou handmaiden, "*be it unto me.*" The angel departed from her. The angel did what was commanded of him, and that was to give God's divine message of the promise of a Savior. It was received by an humble servant who responded willingly (1:38).

