

“Rejoice The Lord Is With You!”

Luke 1:26-38

Now in the sixth month the **Angel Gabriel Was Sent By God** to a **City of Galilee Named Nazareth**, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was **Joseph**, of the **House of David**. The **Virgin's Name** was **Mary**. And having come in, the **Angel** said to her, **“Rejoice, Highly Favored One, the Lord Is With You; Blessed Are You Among Women!”** But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was . Then the **Angel** said to her, **“Do Not Be Afraid, Mary, For You Have Found Favor With God. And Behold, You Will Conceive in Your Womb and Bring Forth a Son, and Shall Call His Name Jesus. 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. And He Will Reign Over the House of Jacob Forever, and of His Kingdom There Will Be No End!”** Then **Mary** said to the **Angel**, **“How can this be, since I do not know a man?”** And the **Angel** answered 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!”** Now indeed, **Elizabeth** your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **For With God Nothing Will Be Impossible!”** Then **Mary** said, **“Behold the Maid-servant of the Lord! Let It Be Done To Me According To Your Word!”** And the **Angel** departed from her.

Luke 1:26-38 (NKJV)

We should recognize that this story concerning the birth of Jesus conforms to a unique Lukan format that is repeated 4 different times by the gospel writer in 6 consecutive passages concerning the events surrounding that First Christmas. Here in this passage we see the **Promise of God** and a **Sign Given** by the Archangel Gabriel to Mary in the second of these four occurrences:

Handout I

“Luke’s Narrative Story Patterns - Birth of Jesus”

Luke’s Historical Acts of Faith/Song of Praise Pattern

<u>Promise of God:</u>	Mary would conceive a Son, who would be both Son of Man & Son of God	Luke 1:31-33 & 35
<u>Character:</u>	Mary	Luke 1:27
<u>Sign Given:</u>	Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin was already pregnant six months with a son in her old age even though she was infertile & unable to have a child	Luke 1:36-37
<u>Evidence of Fulfillment:</u>	Unborn John the Baptist bears witness by leaping in his mother, Elizabeth’s womb to the unborn Son of God, Jesus Christ	Luke 1:41
	Elizabeth Blesses Mary	Luke 1:42-45
<u>Response of Praise:</u>	Song of Mary	Luke 1:46-55

This Is The 2nd Time Angels Are Sent As Messengers To Guide Those Involved In The Birth Of God’s Only Son!

Several of the circumstances surrounding the annunciation and visitation of the archangel Gabriel to Zacharias and Mary can be compared according to this overall basic pattern:

Combined Handout II Part A

“Luke’s Angelic Visitation Comparison Zacharias (John) & Mary (Jesus)”
Compared By Similarity Of Parallel Narrative Story Telling Patterns

Combined Handout II Part B

“Luke’s Angelic Visitation Comparison Zacharias (John) & Mary (Jesus)”
Comparisons By Narrative Story Pattern & Language Similarity

- A) Introduction Of Parents
- B) Obstacles To Childbearing
- C) Encounter With The Archangel, Gabriel
- D) Assurance Of God: “Do Not Be Afraid!”
- E) Announcement Of God’s Will
- F) Promise Of A Son
- G) Objection To Archangel Gabriel’s Words
- H) Giving Of A Sign
- I) Response To The Sign Given
- J) Departure Of Archangel Gabriel

Handout III

“Annunciation/Visitation Comparisons By Key Points”

Handout IV

“Luke’s Comparison Of Births & Beginnings: John & Jesus”

There is also a strong similarity between the Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah given to King Ahaz and the people of Israel, and Samuel given to King David and the people of Israel and the New Testament prophecy of the Archangel, Gabriel given to Mary and the Whole World via the Gospel of Luke:

“Sons As Signs Of The Coming Son of God”

Promises To King Ahaz, King David, & Mary

Isaiah 7:10-14

Moreover, the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!” Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a Son, & you shall call His Name, Emmanuel.

2nd Samuel 7:12-16

“When your days are fulfilled, & you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, & I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, & I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, & he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men & with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house & your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Luke 1:26-27 & 30-33

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary ...Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb & bring forth a Son & shall call His name Jesus. He will be great & will be called the Son of the Highest; & the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David & He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of His kingdom there will be no end.”

In this passage Luke also provides us with evidence concerning the origins of this child named, Jesus who is to be born of Mary, Son of Man, & also the eternal 2nd Person of the Godhead, Son of God:

Jesus' Genealogy/Lineage

1) Mary Was About To Be Related To Her Betrothed Husband Who Was A Direct Descendant Of The Tribe Of Judah

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.” Luke 1:26-27a

This meant that by Mary's union with the tribe of Judah through her betrothed husband Joseph would make her Son, Jesus a King, according to the family of David, which was necessary for Him to fulfill the promise of God as our long-awaited Messiah/Savior!

Jesus Is Our Eternal King Of Kings

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His Name Jesus. 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. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end!” Luke 1:31-33

Jesus' Genealogy/Lineage

2) Mary Was Already Related To Elizabeth, Who Was A Descendant Of Tribe Of Levi

“Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible!” Luke 1:36-37

Jesus Is Our Eternal High Priest

And Melchizedek King of Salem brought out bread and wine; now He was a Priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of Heaven and Earth; and Blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And Abram gave Him a tenth of all he had. Genesis 14:18-20 (See Also: Hebrews 5:10, 6:20, & 7:1)

This meant that by her family lineage according to the tribe of Levi, the priests of Israel, her Son, Jesus, would also be a Priest of God!

Handout VI

“Jesus Christ: Eternal High Priest of God”

The marvelous announcement to Mary is heard again here this morning, the Good News that God was condescending to become human like us to take up our frailty, our suffering and our lives as Human Beings!

God the Father was not willing any longer to allow us to remain without a permanent knowledge of Himself and He was not willing to leave us without hope!

God stepped into time and was about to live among us in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

God chose the lowliest of persons, a young girl of 13 or 14 years of age who held no power, no prestige, no wealth, and was of no consequence, in this world.

But God also chose a young woman after His own heart, faithful, loyal, true, and good who was willing to accept whatever her heavenly Father wanted her to do!

The most intimate and vulnerable a woman can become is allowing herself to become a mother. In this case all the more so because she would not be believed, she would not be welcome in the community she grew up in, she would be a disgrace to her family and to her betrothed husband, Joseph.

No One Would Ever Believe Mary That:

- 1) She Was Still A Virgin**
- 2) She Had Not Committed Adultery Either With Her Betrothed Husband Or With Another Man**
- 3) She Had Spoken With The Archangel Gabriel**
- 4) She Was The Mother Of God's Chosen One: Son of Man & Son of God**

No One Believed God Except Mary!

- 1) Mary Had An Incredible Faith In Her God & Was Used By Him Mightily
- 2) Mary Marveled At The Angels Words Of Good News Spoken To Her First
- 3) Mary Believed No Matter How Unbelievable It All Sounded
- 4) Mary Responded To God In Perfect Obedience With No Reluctance Or Regret

**This Morning. The Same Question God Asked Of Mary,
Is Asked Again Of All Of Us Gathered Here,**

Q

***“If I Give To You The Gift Of My Son;
Will You Serve Me In Return,
No Matter What I Ask Of You?”***

Q

“What If He Asks The Impossible Of Me?”

Q

“What If He Asks Me To Abandon All Reason & Comfort?”

Q

“What Is My Friends & Family Don’t Believe Me?”

Q

“What If Others Don’t Have The Faith I Do?”

Q

“What If Others Reject Me Because I Love Him More Than Them?”

Q

“What If The World Casts Me Aside & I Am No Longer Welcome Every Place?”

A

Mary Asked These Questions Too!

A

Mary Decided To Follow God Anyway, No Matter The Cost To Her!

A

Mary Wanted The Lord To Be Pleased With Her Life Lived For Him!

Mary Wanted To Hear God Say Of Her,

“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you!”

So, Mary Humbly & Without Reservation Replied,

“Behold, I am the Servant of the Lord!”

Because Of The Sacrifice Of Jesus Christ,

God Our Father Can Say To Each Of Us This Morning,

“Rejoice, Highly Favored One, I The Lord AM With You,

I The Lord Want To Forgive You, I The Lord Want To Love You,

I The Lord Want To Bless You! Rejoice, Highly Favored One,

I AM The Lord Your Creator & Savior, I Want To Be With You Forever,

I Want To Use Your Life Like Mary, To Bless Others Through You,

& To Bring Glory To My Name!”

Q

“How Will We, You, And I,

God’s Highly Favored Ones,

Answer Our Lord This Christmas Season

When He Calls Us To Serve Him & Others?”