

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE & APRIL BOWEN

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God's Promises to Israel Culminate with Jesus' "Impossible" Conception and Unique Status Luke 1:26-56

1. A Perplexing Greeting Precedes the Eternal King's Birth Announcement (vv. 1:26-33)

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting 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 call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

2. Gabriel Explains How God will Accomplish "The Impossible" in Jesus' Conception (vv. 1:34-38)

- a. Logistically, Jesus' miraculous conception and identity are the work of the limitless Holy Spirit.
Luke 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.
- b. Elizabeth's pregnancy confirms God's power to bring life from lifelessness.
Luke 1:36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God."
- c. Mary responds by humbly submitting to God's divine wisdom and power.
Luke 1:38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

3. The Holy Spirit Encourages Mary Through Elizabeth, Commending her Faith (vv. 1:39-45)

Luke 1:39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, **40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

4. Mary's Faith in God's Historical Reliability Enables her to Rejoice Amidst Potentially Fearful Circumstances (vv. 1:46-56)

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48** for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52** he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **54** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55** as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Reflection & Discussion

1. When it comes to trusting the promises of God, are you more like Mary or Zechariah? Are there areas of your life where you have trouble believing "all things are possible with God"? Do you notice a pattern?
2. What specific examples of God's faithfulness might bolster your trusting obedience to Christ in your life this week (family, friends, employment, school, conversations, etc.)?
3. Begin to make a written record of specific acts of God's care, provision, and guidance in your own life. Consciously consider how this can encourage you and others.

SONGS

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" – James Montgomery
"THE FIRST NOEL" – John Gardner
"GOD WITH US (ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS)" - Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan
"KING OF KINGS" - Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, and Scott Ligertwood

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 40,353.90
WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00
Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,678,374.68
Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,768,557.00
ALTAMONT CAMPUS
EXPANSION FUND: \$ 12,075.00