

Luke 1:26-38**12-4-05****"Mary's Heavenly Visit!"****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Some World Leaders have said, "I'll bring in an **army!**" God says, "I'll bring in a **child!**" {Thus we have God's special announcement to the world!}
- 1.2. Many of the world's well-known personalities, both actual and mythical, have claimed a miraculous birth.
 - 1.2.1. The Greeks said **Perseus** was the son of Zeus (Jupiter), and that his mother was Danaides, a virgin.
 - 1.2.2. **Jupiter**, the king of gods in Roman mythology, was called Zeus by the ancient Greeks. He was also called **Olympian** because it was believed he lived on Greece's Mount Olympus. According to mythology, Jupiter came down from heaven in a shower of gold.
 - 1.2.3. According to a Hindu myth, **Krishna** was the son of a virgin Davaki.
 - 1.2.4. And the Greeks said that **Alexander the Great**, the son of Philip of Macedon and Olympias, was begotten by a serpent. His mother fired young Alexander's imagination by telling him that he was a descendant of Achilles and that his father, Philip, was a descendant of **Hercules**. [That'll make a kid want to conquer the world!]
 - 1.2.5. It was believed by the Romans that **Caesar Augustus**, the first of the Roman emperors and the one sitting upon Rome's throne when Jesus was born, was conceived by a serpent as Augustus's mother lay asleep in the temple of Apollo.
 - 1.2.5.1. These fables believed by ancients failed to compare, however, with the birth of Jesus Christ. Conceived by the virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the sinless Savior!
- 1.3. The Gospel of Luke doesn't start with "Once upon a time" (Lk.1:1).
- 1.4. He had already visited Zacharias regarding his wife Elizabeth's conception of John the Baptist.
 - 1.4.1. Here we are 6 months later, & **Gabriel** is on his 2nd earth mission!

2. MARY'S HEAVENLY VISIT! (26-38)

- 2.1. **MARY'S MESSENGER!** (26-28)
- 2.2. (27) **Mary** – probably a teen (Jewish girls married young)
 - 2.2.1. She was engaged to "*a carpenter named Joe*" (Joseph).
 - 2.2.2. We immediately are introduced to her **Purity!**

- 2.3. (28) The Greeting!
- 2.4. Rejoice, highly favored one – What an honor to be chosen to be the mother of the Messiah!
- 2.4.1. Literally translated, “*Grace, you who are highly graced!*”
 - 2.4.2. Although she was a godly woman, it was **God’s grace**, not Mary’s character, that made her **God’s choice**.
 - 2.4.2.1. Highly favored – is used of “all” God’s people in Eph.1:6 “**to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.**”
 - 2.4.2.1.1. [made us = He bestowed grace or favor upon us]
- 2.5. The Lord is with you –
- 2.6. Blessed are you among women – (not in newer MSS)
- 2.6.1. Mary is blessed **among** women but **not above** women!
- 2.7. **MARY’S MESSAGE!** (29-33)
- 2.8. (29) Troubled – The preposition compound intensifies the verb “*she was thoroughly confused*” [(RWP) LKGNT]
- 2.8.1. Considered – to reckon up different reasons. (RWP)
 - 2.8.1.1. She was expectant of it (w/attitude) “**well it’s about time!**”
- 2.9. (30) Do not be afraid – Why not? Because the message of salvation replaces **fear** with **joy!** (**Rejoice!** Vs.28)
- 2.10. (31) Jesus! – The 1st use of His name.
- 2.10.1. It’s an **Aromatic name** - Inexpressibly fragrant; a delicious perfume
 - 2.10.2. It was a **Common name** – for he is *the people’s Christ!*
 - 2.10.3. It’s the **Best name** - Bernard said, “*the name of Jesus is honey in the mouth, melody in the ear, & joy in the heart.*¹”
 - 2.10.4. It’s the **Most Appropriate name** – The Father could name him well, for He knew him!
 - 2.10.5. It indicates **His Main Work** – “you shall call His name **Jesus**, for He will **save His people from their sins.**” Mt.1:21
 - 2.10.5.1. There is no really knowing our Lord w/o knowing Him as **Savior; for He is that, or nothing!!!**
 - 2.10.5.2. Those who fall short of His salvation do not even know his name!
 - 2.10.6. It was **sent by an angel** - And how Gabriel must have delighted in bring it! – “*I have it*” “*I have it*” “*the name Moses was asking for*” (if they say, “What is His name”, what shall I tell them? “*I AM WHO I AM*”) “*I’ve got His name...It’s JESUS!!!*”
 - 2.10.7. It is **His Name For Ever** –
 - It was **His Birth name** (call His name **Jesus**)
 - It was **His Home name** (what they called him around the house)

¹ Spurgeon; Great Sermons on the Birth,etc.; pg.28

It was the **name on His Cross** (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews)
 It is **His Gospel name** (Peter preached, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”)
 It is **His Heavenly name** (Jesus even *signs off* with it in Rev.22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star”)

- 2.10.8. Jesus is the way to God, therefore **will we preach** Him?
 Jesus is the truth, therefore **will we hear of** Him?
 Jesus is the life, therefore **shall our hearts rejoice in** Him?

- 2.11. (32,33) **Note:** He will be great...not “they...”

- 2.12. The coming of the Son of God to earth involved not only our **personal salvation** but also the fulfilling of God’s promises to His people **Israel.**²
 - 2.12.1. To spiritualize these promises is to rob the Jews of what God has promised them.
 - 2.12.2. If Gabriel’s words in vs.**30,31** are to be taken **literally**, so should his words in vs.**32,33!**

- 2.13. **MARY’S MYSTERY!** (34)
- 2.14. Unlike Zacharias, Mary believed God would do what He promised [vs45]
 - 2.14.1. She asked, “**How will**(lit. trans) **this be**” not “**How can this be**”.

- 2.15. **MARY’S METHOD!** (35)
- 2.16. The miracle of the virgin birth was **not** the actual birth, **but** the conception of Christ’s earthly body.³
 - 2.16.1. This conception was not only **supernatural**, but **unique** also, for God had already performed supernatural births for “*Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth & others.*”⁴
 - 2.16.2. **The Son of the Most High God umbilically tied to a lowly Jewish girl!**⁵

- 2.17. Charles Wesley sang about this, “*Veiled in flesh the Godhead See, Hail the incarnate Deity*”. [Hark the Herald Angels Sing, 2nd Stanza]
 - 2.17.1. **The Son of God becomes the Son of Man.**
 - 2.17.2. By a real human birth becomes a **Member of our race** as well as its **Creator.**

- 2.17.3. **The Unseen becomes seen** – God emerges from heavenly hiddenness, into earthly visibility.⁶

² Warren Wiersbe; NT Outlines, Luke.

³ Willmington’s Guide to the Bible; pg.612

⁴ ibid

⁵ Ken Gire; Intimate Moments w/the Savior; pg.4.

⁶ J. Sidlow Baxter; Awake My Heart; Oct.30th; pg.320.

- 2.17.3.1. The incomprehensible SOMEONE - becomes the approachable, touchable, understandable **JESUS!**
- 2.17.4. **The Distant becomes near** – See Him at the **carpenters bench**; sitting at the **well**; weeping at the **grave** of Lazarus; on the **cross** ...**He is near!**
- 2.17.5. **The Creator becomes Savior** – The greatest fact of all!
 - 2.17.5.1. A poor women's prayer in the Welsh Revival: "Dear Savior, I think There he is on the cross with his arms outstretched to show that there is a welcome for everyone."
- 2.18. **How?** **Overshadowed** - God came, & planted the secret genes of God!
 - 2.18.1. fdgdfg
 - 2.18.2. "He stretched skin over spirit like a rubber glove, aligning Trinity with bone, twining through veins until Deity square-knotted flesh."⁷
 - 2.18.3. Check out the J.W. *New World Translation Mt.1:23.* (not, a god?)
 - 2.18.4. **God has 4 ways to make a body:** (that we know of)
 - 2.18.5. [1] **Out of clay** – As he did Adam.
 - 2.18.6. [2] **Out of man** – As with Eve.
 - 2.18.7. [3] **Out of woman married to man** – As in every normal human birth.
 - 2.18.8. [4] **Out of woman without man** – As with the birth of Christ.
- 2.19. **EVIDENCES FOR THE VIRGIN BIRTH!**
 - 2.19.1. **The Scriptures verify it!** - All the manuscripts in all the ancient versions contain the record of it.
 - 2.19.2. **Tradition confirms it!** - The traditions of the early church & the early church fathers recognize it. (Like Ignatius, Justin Martyr, Tatian, etc.)
 - 2.19.3. **The Creeds substantiate it!** - Even the earliest of Creeds "*The Apostles Creed*" holds to its belief.
 - 2.19.3.1. "Conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary" is what it declares.
 - 2.19.4. **Jesus' perfect, sinless, flawless life attests to it!**
 - 2.19.5. **We have 2 millennium full of hymns & liturgies** of the Greek, Roman, & Protestant church that verify the Virgin birth!
 - 2.19.6. **We also have the story of the Virgin Birth enshrined in the art & architect & literature** of Christendom!
- 2.20. **MARY'S MIRACULOUS GOD ! (36-37)**
- 2.21. (36) How nice to immediately go spend time with someone that would understand. [3 months, vs.56. Prob thought, "*I got to get back before Christmas!*" ☺]

⁷ Marjorie Maddox Phifer

- 2.22. (37) For with God [not God & Mary] nothing will be impossible –
 2.22.1. (J.B.Phillips) “*For no promise of God can fail to be fulfilled.*”
- 2.23. **MARY’S SUBMISSION!** (38)
- 2.24. She responded with **trust/belief** & now with **submission!**
- 2.25. I’m the Lord’s servant, & I’m willing to accept whatever he desires.
- 2.25.1. Q: Are you prepared similarly to ask the Lord to fulfill **His word** in **you?**
- 2.25.2. Q: Can “Let it be to me” be your motto?
- 2.26. **Wrap Up!** - 2 Cor.5:19 “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them”
- 2.27. If our greatest need had been **information**, God would have sent us an educator;
 If our greatest need had been **technology**, God would have sent us a scientist;
 If our greatest need had been **money**, God would have sent us an economist;
 If our greatest need had been **pleasure**, God would have sent us an entertainer;
 But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.
- 2.28. Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts: the gift of **God to man** - his Son; and the gift of **man to God** - when we 1st give ourselves to God.⁸
 2.28.1. Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man!

⁸ Vance Havner