

Submission to God's Certain Savior

Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by 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. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 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. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to 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. 36 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. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. NKJV

You and I look at this story as a beautiful story. But I think that if we had been there with Mary, the reality of it would have shocked us out of our story book world.

Even in the Bible when angels appear to people it is quite rare. There seems to be a number of cases but when you consider the number of people in the Bible the percentage is quite low.

But what would you and I do if an angel showed up to visit us this Christmas. I am sure that it would shock our Christmas stacking right off.

But did you know that for you and me, God has something greater even than an angelic visit, but we will come back to that later.

Right now we want to deal with Mary's angel.

- I. Time and Location and Angel
 - A. 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
 - B. It is the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
 - C. God sent Gabriel.
 - D. To Nazareth

- II. To whom
 - A. 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
 - B. Mary and Joseph were a couple of the most common names in Israel.
 - C. These two were no doubt quite young.
 - D. They were betrothed or espoused, which meant that they were legally joined and divorce were the only legal way of separating them.
- III. The angels declaration of blessing.
 - A. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"
- IV. Mary's first reaction.
 - A. 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.
- V. The reassurance of the angel
 - A. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
- VI. The angel's message
 - A. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.
- VII. His Destiny
 - A. 32 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. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."
- VIII. Mary's question
 - A. 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"
- IX. The miracle of the virgin birth.
 - A. 35 And the angel answered and said to 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.
- X. The news of her cousin's pregnancy
 - A. 36 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. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

XI. Mary's submission

- A. 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

XII. What would you have done?

- A. If an angel came to visit you this Christmas, and had a special message for you would believe it and submit?
1. Now I am sure that we each would like to think that we would be as submissive as Mary and Joseph were.
 2. But would we.
 3. Oh yes we say, if we had such a great and certain message from God.
 4. If we were sure then we could do that.
- B. Let us look at what Peter told his readers in second Peter.
1. 2 Pet 1:16 ¶ For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.
 2. 2 Pet 1:19 ¶ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
- C. The Bible is our more sure word from God.
- D. Peter says it is more sure than the voice which the came from heaven that he and the other apostles heard.
1. But are we listening.
 2. Do you realize that in the Bible 40 different writers come together to tell us what God is saying to us.
 3. They are ready and waiting to give you not only the message of Christmas but also many other things God wants us to know.
 4. Are we listening?

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