

The Surprise of Christmas

Luke 1:26-33

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." NKJV

My parents did the best they could to surprise us kids each Christmas and we did the very best we could to find the presents. That was half the fun. But it really was not a surprise because we knew that it was coming and when it was coming and the whole culture set us up for the coming of Christmas.

That is what I especially like about the Christmas shoe boxes. They go to children who are truly surprised by receiving them.

Today's kids have a computerized list and they are only surprised if they don't get what is on it.

God surprised us at Christmas.

I. Mary was surprised

A. She was surprised by the angel.

1. I am sure that a visit from an angel was the last thing that Mary was expecting that day.
2. But she was open to it, she would accept it when it happened to her.
3. We cannot always plan the good things in our life. Some times they just happen.

B. She was surprised by the message.

1. She would bring forth the Messiah prophesied from the beginning of the world.
2. Finally God would bring deliverance to a world that is so needy.
3. He would bring freedom to a world locked in sin, serving sin to the ruin of their lives and society.

C. She was surprised by her selection.

1. She did not think herself worthy of this honor.

2. She was not filled with pride but was humble, a servant, the handmaiden of the Lord.

II. Joseph was surprised

- A. He was surprised by Mary's announcement.
- B. He was surprised by the vision.
- C. He was surprised by the selection.

III. The Shepherds were surprised

- A. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

IV. We were surprised.

- A. Not by the decorations or the newest gadget at the Mall.
- B. Not by the presents we receive.
- C. But by the fact that God visited earth 2000 years ago.
- D. That He came to take us out of this sinful world and make for Himself a people for His own Names sake.
- E. Do you know Him that way.
- F. Has he taken you out of the world that is so opposed to Him?
- G. Has He called you out of darkness into the light of God.
- H. Have you been surprised by the Christ of Christmas.