



**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**

---

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING TO US

**God spoke to many different people  
during the first Christmas story.**

**What did He say?**

**Is He speaking to us today?**

**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**





Where does the  
first Christmas  
story take  
place?

Map of Israel in the  
time of Jesus

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?





Painting of ancient Nazareth

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Matthew 1

# Luke 1

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



# Mary's Story Begins

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother **Mary** had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was **Mary**.

Luke 1:26-27

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Meet Mary of Nazareth

- Greek version of her name was Maria [Μαρία, Μαριάμ]
- Hebrew version of her name was Miryam מִרְיָם; named after the elder sister of Moses and Aaron
- As a teenager, she was betrothed/promised (Hebrew *erusin* אֵירוּסִין) to Joseph of Nazareth, a young man from her hometown
- She was taught a woman's role in Jewish prayers and blessings, and like all Jewish people she was waiting for the promised Messiah
- She is described as a “virgin” in Luke 1:27
- She is called “favored one” of the Lord in Luke 1:28
- The angel Gabriel said “the Lord is with you” in Luke 1:28

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Who is the angel Gabriel?

- “Champion of God,” used as a proper name to designate the angel who was sent to Daniel (8:16) to explain the vision of the ram and the he-goat, and to communicate the prediction of the seventy weeks (Dan. 9:21–27). He announced also the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11), and of the Messiah (26). He describes himself in the words, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God” (Luke 1:19). – Easton’s Bible Dictionary
- One of the archangels in Jewish and early Christian thought. In the Old Testament, Gabriel appears only in Daniel 8:15–26 and 9:21–27, and, in the New Testament, only in Luke 1:11–20, 26–38. In these passages, Gabriel appears as a messenger (‘angel’) from God and an interpreter for the people to whom he is sent. Tradition associated Gabriel with the archangel whose trumpet blast would announce the return of Christ (cf. 1 Thess. 4:16; Matt. 24:31). – Harper’s Bible Dictionary
- Personal name meaning “strong man of God.” The heavenly messenger who interpreted to Daniel the meaning of the vision of the ram and the goat. He appears four times in the Bible, each time bringing to human beings a message from the Lord. Twice he appeared to Daniel (8:15–27; 9:20–27). In the New Testament he appeared to announce the births of John the Baptist (Luke 1:8–20) and Jesus (Luke 1:26–38). – Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary

**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**



# Mary receives a blessing

And coming in, he [angel Gabriel] said to her [Mary], “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. Luke 1:28-29

- Greek verb χαριτόω *charitoo*
- Definition: to favor, to make accepted; a recipient of favor

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# God's people are never alone

Gabriel said to Mary...

“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

Luke 1:28

- When God chooses you for a spiritual mission, He is pledging to walk through life with you.

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



# Mary receives a promise

The angel [Gabriel] said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus [Yeshua יֵשׁוּעַ]. He will be **great** and will be called the Son of the Most High [El Elyon]; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob [Israel] forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

Luke 1:30-33

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

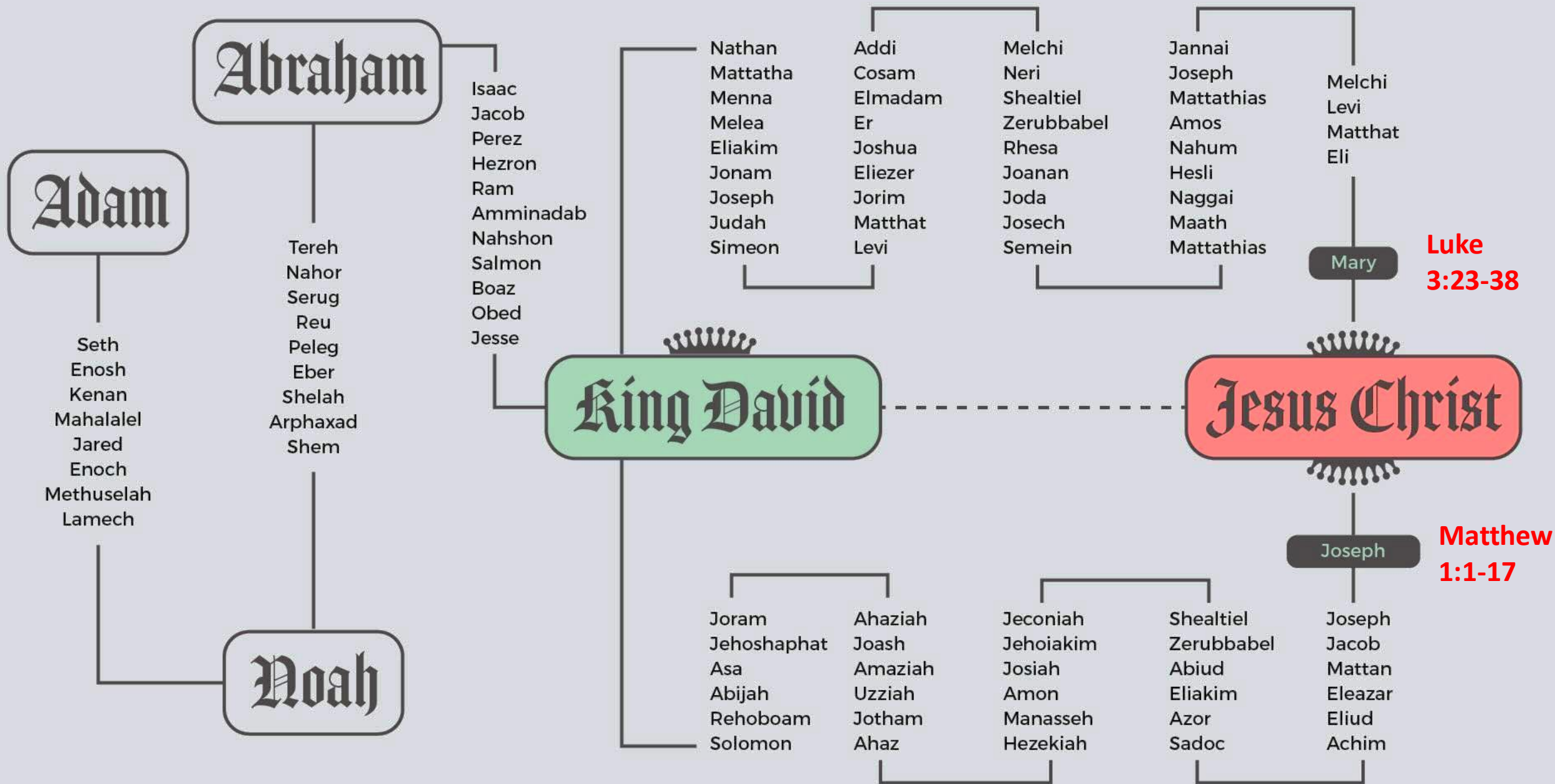
# About 1000 years earlier, God also spoke...

The Lord said to King David of Bethlehem through the prophet Nathan...

“When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ” 2 Samuel 7:12-16

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?





**The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah**

# Did Mary know the Messianic Prophecies?

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



# Mary asks THE QUESTION

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a **virgin**?” Luke 1:34

How do you react when God’s promise seems impossible?

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Did Mary know the Messianic Prophecies?

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you  
a sign: behold, a **virgin** will be with child  
and bear a son, and she will call His  
name Immanuel [Hebrew for “God with us”].  
Isaiah 7:14

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# What was the cost of God speaking to Mary?

In an instant I'm sure she tried to count the cost of being pregnant before her marriage -- her family's good name, her reputation, Joseph's love and respect. And possibly a horrible humiliating death by stoning if Joseph rejected her. And even if Joseph did not insist on her death, her supposed adultery would forever make her undesirable as a marriage partner.

- Melody Green

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



# Mary gets THE ANSWER

The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow [cover] you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative [συγγενίς *suggenes*] Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Luke 1:35-37

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# When God speaks to you for a mission...

- He promises to walk with you Himself.
- He will show you that you are not the only person chosen for an important mission.
- He may give you a friend as an encourager.

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Mary's trust in God

And Mary said, "Behold, the bonds slave [servant] of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38

\*When we hear God speak to us, what will we say to Him?

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



Now at this time  
Mary arose and  
went in a hurry to  
the hill country, to  
a city of Judah,  
and entered the  
house of Zacharias  
and greeted  
Elizabeth.  
Luke 1:39-40

## FROM NAZARETH TO JUDAH

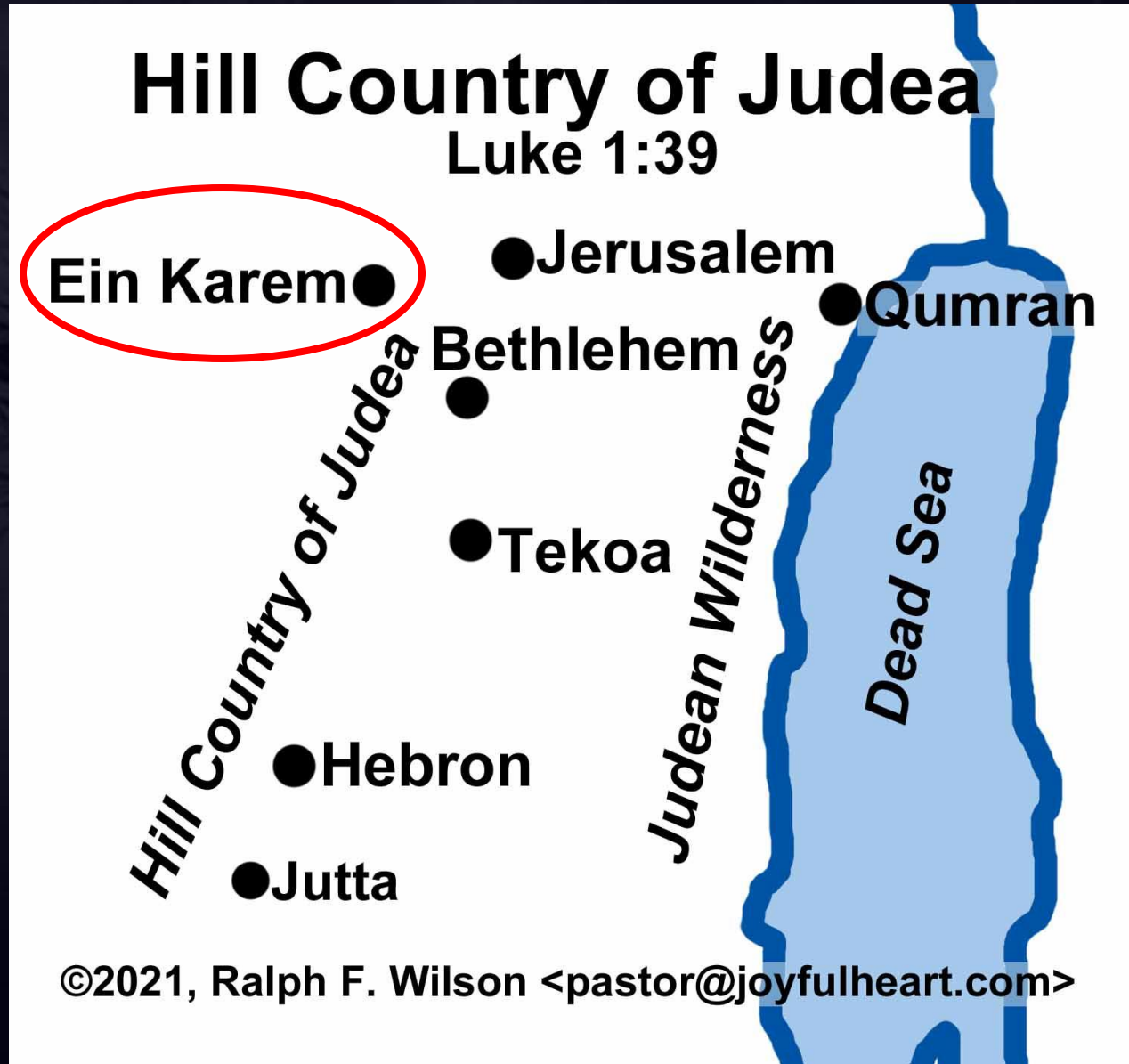
LUKE 1:26-29, 39-40



DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

The journey  
was about 80 to  
100 miles and  
would probably  
take Mary three  
to four days.

<https://www.jesuswalk.com/luke/apx1c-magnificat.htm>



**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**



# Mary visits Elizabeth

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby [a son to be known later as John the Baptizer] **leaped in her womb**; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been **spoken to her** [Mary] **by the Lord.**" Luke 1:41-45

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?





**After God speaks to us,  
what can we say to Him?**

**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**

# The Magnificat (from the Latin Vulgate)

And Mary said: “My soul exalts [magnifies] the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God **my Savior**. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant [servant]; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him.” Luke 1:46-50

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



# The Magnificat

“He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed. He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.” And Mary stayed with her [Elizabeth] about three months, and then returned to her home [in Nazareth]. Luke 1:51-56

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Do we need evidence that Mary knew and loved her Bible, the Old Testament (Tanakh)?

There are 10-12 quotations of and allusions to the Old Testament (Tanakh) in the Magnificat, strong proof of Mary's Bible learning and spiritual maturity.

Many of the truths Mary expresses find a counterpart in Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1–10.

## Many lines of Mary's prayer are quoted exactly or approximately from the Old Testament/Tanakh...

Luke 1:46	Psalms 34:2
Luke 1:47	Psalms 35:9
Luke 1:48	1 Samuel 1:11
Luke 1:49	Psalms 111:9
Luke 1:50	Psalms 103:17
Luke 1:51	Psalms 89:10
Luke 1:52	Job 12:19, 5:11
Luke 1:53	1 Samuel 2:5, Psalms 107:9
Luke 1:54	Psalms 98:3
Luke 1:55	Genesis 17:7, 19; Micah 7:20



After the shepherds visited the newborn baby Jesus...

“But Mary treasured all these things,  
pondering them in her heart.” Luke 2:19

- You will never be chosen to give birth to the Messiah.
- But... Is God choosing you to love Messiah Jesus?
- Is God choosing you to share the story of Jesus with others?

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# Biblical scenes of Mary after Jesus' Birth

- When the shepherds visit the newborn Messiah
- At the presentation of 40-day-old baby Jesus in the Temple
- When the Magi from the east visit Bethlehem
- Family flees to Egypt to escape Herod's death decree
- Family moves to Nazareth, Mary's hometown
- At Jesus' age 12, family travels to the Temple in Jerusalem
- At Jesus' age 30, during His first miracle at a wedding in Cana
- At the crucifixion of her son Jesus in Jerusalem
- Visiting the empty tomb after the resurrection

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# What does the Bible NOT tell us about Mary?

- How old she was at the birth of Jesus (likely aged 15 or 16)
- That she rode a donkey to Bethlehem
  - That claim was written in The Protoevangelium of James, an apocryphal Gospel probably written about AD 145
- That she remained a virgin for her entire life
  - Two of Jesus' brothers wrote New Testament books – James (Jacob) and Jude (Judas)
- That she was ever given praise or glory by any person on earth
- That any of the apostles gave her a prominent role in ministry
- How and when and where she died
- That she now hears the prayers of people on earth
- That she now answers the prayers of people on earth

**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**



# The “Virgin Mary”

Jesus' brothers are mentioned in several Bible verses. Matthew 12:46, Luke 8:19, and Mark 3:31 say that Jesus' mother and brothers came to see Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus had four brothers: James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (Matthew 13:55). The Bible also tells us that Jesus had sisters, but they are not named or numbered (Matthew 13:56). In John 7:1-10, His brothers go on to the festival while Jesus stays behind. In Acts 1:14, His brothers and mother are described as praying with the disciples. Galatians 1:19 mentions that James was Jesus' brother. The most natural conclusion of these passages is to interpret that Jesus had actual blood half-siblings.

- <http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-siblings.html>

**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**

# The Gossip That Never Stopped

- So they [Pharisees] were saying to Him [Jesus],  
“Where is Your Father?” Jesus [as an adult] answered,  
“You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me,  
you would know My Father also.” John 8:19
- [Jesus said to a group of Jews...] “You are doing the  
deeds of your father.” They said to Him [as an adult],  
“We were not born of fornication; we have one Father:  
God.” John 8:41

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# The Painful Struggles that would come later

In the Temple when Jesus was an infant...

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—  
**and a sword will pierce even your own soul**—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Luke 2:34-35

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?



# The Painful Struggles that would come later

At the Cross, when Jesus was an adult...

Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **When Jesus then saw His mother**, and the disciple whom He loved [Apostle John] standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household. John 19:25-27

DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?

# **“Do you hear what I hear?”**

## **The conversation that started it all**

- The angel [Gabriel] said to Mary, “For nothing will be impossible with God.” Luke 1:37
- And Mary said [to the angel], “Behold, the servant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38

**This Christmas, are we  
spiritually ready to hear the  
first and declare the second?**

1. “nothing will be impossible with God”
2. “may it be done to me according to your word”

**DO YOU HEAR  
WHAT I HEAR?**