

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **Birth Announcement: Jesus**

Jesus' ministry is to be announced by John the Baptist, whose birth announcement we looked at last time

Now, the birth announcement of the Messiah...also in Luke 1

v26-27      Six months after the birth announcement and conception of John (procreation of husband and wife), all the which time Elizabeth is "retired" to fellowship with the Lord, the angel Gabriel is sent on another mission by God in heaven

- to a city in the Galilee...Nazareth
  - on the north side of the Jezreel Valley, opposite Mount Carmel
  - the northern boundary of Zebulun's inheritance
  - had a distinct Gentile "flavor"
    - on the major trade route...Via Maris, Way of the Sea
    - lots of commercial traffic and traffickers
  - [ map ]
  - had a distinct Jewish "flavor"
    - a gathering place for the courses of priests, from which they would go serve in the Temple
  - the mixture of "flavors" was not appreciated
    - the Jews of Nazareth were thought to be poor, unlettered, country folk by the wealthy, sophisticated city folks in Jerusalem
    - in 30 years...John 1:43-46
- to a virgin named Miriam/Mary (King James translators of *TR*)
  - espoused (engaged "with teeth", only undone by divorce)
  - to Joseph, a descendant of David
  - she also was a descendant of David
  - probably a teenager

At this point, to understand the nature and Person of Jesus Christ,  
we have to look at His genealogies

## Genealogies

God

John 1:1-4, 14

## Jesus is the **Son of God**

*Logos...Word of God...Memra*

(“the word of the Lord” from the Targum paraphrase)

- the image of God, full of grace and truth
- the instrument of God's creative work
- the wisdom of God
- announces and interprets the will of God to man
- mediator between God and man

### Associated with the Messiah

Mel

Heb 7:1-11

Mary

Luke 3:23
Luke 3:31
Luke 3:38

Heli = Mary's father, Joseph's father-in-law  
uncursed line

## Jesus is the **Son of Man**

Joseph

Matt 1:1

Matt 1:6

Matt 1:11

Matt 1:16

## Jesus is the Son of David, King

## Start with Abraham

royal line

cursed

husband of Mary

## Matt 1 “forefathers”

v2	polygomists
	deceiver

## Reference

Gen 2:24

Ex 20:15-17

v3    bastard

Deut 23:2

10<sup>th</sup> generation = David

v5 prostitute  
Moabites

Ex 20:14

Deut 23:3

## David is 1/8<sup>th</sup> Gentile

v6   adulterer  
murderer  
idolater

Ex 20:14

Ex 20:13

Ex 20:3-5

what the Law could not do, Grace can

Note:

no genealogy in Mark...no one cares about where a servant comes from

v28-30

Gabriel addresses the virgin to whom he was sent

- highly favored...given a special honor from the Lord
- blessed among women...that special honor was every Jewish girl's desire, especially in the times of the Gentiles (esp Dan 2:40) – to be the mother of the Messiah that would deliver her people

It is not an everyday occurrence to be visited and spoken to by an angel...  
And called "highly favored"...so Mary was troubled/unsettled/disturbed...  
as was Zachariah when Gabriel appeared to him

So Gabriel

- says as he did to Zachariah – "Fear not"
- repeats the greeting to Mary
- elaborates

v31-33

"You are highly favored and blessed among women because

- you will
  - conceive
  - give birth to a son
    - foretold 750 years previously thru Isaiah...[Is 7:14]
  - name Him 'Jesus' (Joshua, Hosea...Jehovah is salvation)
    - Joshua: Captain to conquer the land
    - Hosea: faithful servant, told to marry a whore
- He will
  - be great..."big, mighty, strong"
  - be called the Son of God (relational vs biological)...[Is 57:15]
    - Note: eternity vs time...3D stage vs piece of lint
  - sit on the throne of David...the Son of David, the Messiah
    - [Jer 23:1-6], Part 1
    - Ps 2
  - reign over Israel...forever and ever (eternity)
    - [Is 9:6-7]

How is that for a Birth Announcement!!!

v34

Mary/Miriam asks a question of Gabriel...as did Zachariah in v18  
But she was not stuck mute

Zachariah wanted a sign...a demand grounded in doubt/unbelief  
Mary believes but wants understanding..."How do I conceive without marital relations?"

v35

Since an inquiring mind want to know...  
different than a doubting heart wanting “proof”...  
Gabriel “explains”...revealing the Trinity, the Triune nature of the God of AI&J

- God the Holy Ghost will come upon you...*epi* (Acts 1:8)
- the power of God the Father will envelope you
- the Son of God will be conceived in your womb

A supernatural birth...NOT natural  
Incarnation vs procreation via “marital relations”  
God putting on, being given, a human body

Note: The Personhood of the Holy Spirit was not fully apprehended yet

From our vantage point in time, Jesus came to Heb 2:14-15  
End of that work: Resurrection, since Acts 2:23-24  
Therefore, the start of that work...incarnation...is logical, reasonable

But from Mary’s vantage point in time, this is “wonderful”, a mystery  
To this point, the only reference in Scripture of the “Son of God” is in  
Dan 4:25  
 (“You mean to tell me that.....”)

And this Plan of God could never have been conceived or invented by the  
contemporary Judaism  
God’s Plan was contrary to all their preconceptions

v36-37

Before Mary/Miriam can mutter “Inconceivable!”, Gabriel brings the power of  
God

- closer to home to Mary
  - tangible reality vs theory-ology
- to help Mary “embrace” the blessing she has been given...  
gives her a sign that she did not ask for (unlike Zachariah)

Her cousin Elizabeth...  
an old, barren woman  
a daughter of Aaron  
had also conceived a son  
another supernatural birth

Cousins...from another tribe?  
Mary’s parents:

- father was of the line of David/Judah...king
- mother was of the line of Aaron/Levi...priest

Gabriel puts an exclamation point on his message to Mary by saying  
the “inconceivable” is very conceivable (perhaps pun intended)  
that nothing is impossible with God...  
if something were impossible,  
then God is not all-mighty and God is not God

Do you believe this?  
Are you facing something/someone that is impossible for you?  
Is it bigger than God?  
If yes...you have a very small god...about the same size as you  
If no...God can do it (if it is His will and timing)

Context: It is impossible for man to become God  
But it is not impossible for God to become a man  
Son of God and Son of Man  
Kinsman-Redeemer  
Seed of the Woman

v38 Mary’s response to this mind-blowing Birth Announcement:  
much like Isaiah’s in Is 6:5, 8  
She is up for anything the Lord wants to do in or with her

The Lord and His chosen servant are in agreement...  
Exit Gabriel, mission accomplished

Now the two expecting mothers visit

- both supernatural conceptions
- yet radically different
  - Elizabeth: old barren woman by procreation...  
ever since Gen 2:24
  - Mary: young virgin by incarnation...  
absolutely unique in human history

v39-45

Mary leaves Nazareth in the Galilee to visit her cousin Elizabeth in an undisclosed city in Judah

A thoughtful woman, Mary has been thinking on her calling and what has happened to her

By this time, as we can glean from the conversation, v35 has happened

- John leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb...testifying that
  - because Mary is "in the house"?
  - because his Lord and Savior is "in the house"!

When does life begin, according to the Scripture?

How then does God the Giver of Life view abortion?

Those who have participated in the abortion of an innocent and defenseless child have a GREAT need: the forgiveness of God

Good News: That is why the Child in Mary's womb came!

- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost...and she prophesied/spoke the word of God
  - repeated without first having known God's greeting and mission to Mary thru Gabriel (v28-35)
  - blessed among women
  - blessed the Fruit of her womb (present tense)
  - "the mother of my Lord" (for whom her son is forerunner)  
The Lord God of Israel is born of woman?!  
Blasphemous if it were not inspired
  - blessed for believing/trusting the Lord and for being available for this heavenly anointed but socially dangerous mission

What is Mary's response?

v46-55 Subdivided by the personal pronouns

my (v46-47)

He, me (v48)

His, He (v49-55)

my (v46-47)

- my soul magnifies the Lord...she is not co-Lord, she is lesser
- my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior...Mary acknowledges her
  - sinfulness
  - need for God to save her (she is not sinless as RCC teaches)

He, me (v48)

- she is of low estate/humble and has been exalted to “bear” this honor
- He exalts the humble and humbles the exalted
- she is blessed by all generations...indeed she is but not to the man-made, queen-of-heaven-worshipping status given her by RCC

His, He (v49-55)

- Mighty
- Holy
- Merciful
- Strong
- Just
- Faithful to His Word
  - He told His friends what He was going to do
  - Then He does it...and nothing is impossible
  - He is good to His Word...every word
  - (gets more clear the closer we get to His time to act)
  - e.g. v31-32a....v32b-33 (Kingdom on earth)

Thought:

Are we self-centered?

Take careful note of the personal pronouns you speak this coming week...

How often do we say “me”, “my”, “mine”, “I”?

In what context do we say those words...

who is the subject of the things we say?

How many selfies do I take with my phone?

When I look in the “photo box”, who am I looking for?

As a contrast, how often do we speak of Jesus Christ?

In Mary’s response, Who is the Subject of the things she said?

God has a plan for your life...

- are you up for it?
- will go say “Yes”, no matter what His plan is?

What is your response to the greeting of God?

- Zacharias’
- Mary’s
- deafened by the noise of the world so you cannot hear?
- too dull of hearing (“lazy, slothful”) to even hear?

Do you want the Lord Jesus Christ to be magnified in your life?

Let His life in you be seen and heard to those in your sphere of influence

2 Peter 3:18 by John 3:30