

THE MESSIAH'S BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 1:26-38

God delights in using people who, in the eyes of the world, are nothings. God chose a “nothing” named David, a shepherd boy little valued by his own father, and raised him up to be the greatest king in the history of Israel.

Closer to home, God used Mrs. H. to bring my buddy Larry to Christ as a boy. Mrs. H. was a “nothing” in the eyes of the world. She was poor and uneducated. She was heavysset and awkward. But she loved the Lord and she loved kids and she held a Good News Club meeting once a week for grade school kids in her little house around the corner from our church.

My buddy Larry himself is a Hispanic kid who grew up in a tough home in the poor part of town. A “nothing” by the world’s standards yet Larry went on to establish a nationwide ministry supporting inner-city churches and youth pastors. Thousands of inner-city youth have come to faith and are being disciplined through Larry’s organization.

God delights in using “nothings” to accomplish His story. Often those “nothings” are men, women and children of great faith. Of all the people God could have used, He chose a “nothing” girl in a “nothing” town to bring Yeshua Messiah King into the world.

Part 1. The Coming of the King

→ ***The Messiah’s Birth
Announcement***

Part 2. The Authentication of the King

Part 3. The Controversy over the King

Part 4. The Training of the Twelve by the King

Part 5. The Opposition to the King:

Part 6. The Preparation of the Disciples by the King

Part 7. The Official Presentation of the King

Part 8. The Preparation for the Death of the King

Part 9. The Trial of the King:

Part 10. The Death of the King

Part 11. The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King

GABRIEL SENT TO MARY OF NAZARETH (LUKE 1:26-27)

LUKE 1:26–27 (ESV)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from 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. And the virgin’s name was Mary.

“In the sixth month” refers to the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy (1:24).

The angel Gabriel is sent from God to the northern region of Israel called the “Galilee” to a village named Nazareth. Nazareth was so insignificant there is no mention of it in the Hebrew Scriptures, no mention in rabbinic writings nor in the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus. Archaeological finds indicate Nazareth was populated up to the end of the 8th century BC. It was abandoned for six hundred years until it was rebuilt in the 2nd century BC. In the 2nd century, a small clan settled in Nazareth and gave it their family name, Natsara. One scholar explains:

These were the Natsoreans, a Judean family that proudly identified its Davidic lineage and spoke of itself as “the Branch Clan,” apparently in strong identification with prophecy. The people in this town had the idea that Messiah, the Branch¹, would be born from among them. Meanwhile, those who knew them often scoffed. To other Jewish people in larger, older cities, the Natsoreans must have seemed silly in their assumed self-importance. Their little town could not have seemed more distant from the glories of the Davidic Kingdom in ancient days.²

It is estimated that in the first century BC Nazareth was home to about 2000 souls.

Gabriel was sent to a young woman named Mary. Her name in Hebrew is Miriam. Twice in verse 27 Luke emphasizes that Mary was a virgin. Luke also points out that Mary was betrothed to Joseph.

¹ In the Hebrew Scriptures, Messiah is referred to as “the Branch” (ex. Zech. 3:8).

² Ronald B. Allen “Does Anything Good Come from Nazareth?” *Kindred Spirit*, 23/4 (Winter 1999), p.11 quoted in Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective*, Vol. 1, 2nd Edition, (San Antonio, Ariel Ministries), 2017, p. 316.

The Jewish marriage process involved two stages.

Betrothal was the first stage. Betrothal involved a formal, witnessed agreement to marry and the paying of the bride price. Once betrothed the woman belonged to her husband-to-be and was called his wife. Only death or divorce could sever the betrothal. A betrothed girl whose groom died during the betrothal period was referred to as a widow.

The second stage of the Jewish marriage process was the marriage ceremony which usually took place a year after the betrothal. The marriage ceremony lasted seven days. Only after the completion of the marriage ceremony was the marriage consummated.

GABRIEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY (LUKE 1:28-33)

In verses 28-33 Luke records Gabriels announcement to Mary.

LUKE 1:28-33 (ESV)

28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And 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 bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to 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."

After comforting Mary, Gabriel delivered his message.

Mary will conceive and bear a son.

Mary is to name her son "Yeshua" from the Hebrew root "to save".

"Yeshua" was a common name in first century Israel. In the years following Jesus the rabbis shortened Jesus' name to "Yeshu". "Yeshu", spelled with three Hebrew consonants, forms an acronym which means "May his name and memory be blotted out."

Mary's son will be great.

Mary's son will be the Son of God – the God-Man.

Mary's son will fulfill the Davidic Covenant.

God made an unconditional covenant with King David recorded in 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17.

1 CHRONICLES 17:11-14 (ESV)

11 When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, 14 but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.' "

Gabriel announced that Mary's Son is the "offspring", the descendant of David Who will receive David's throne. He will reign over Israel and His Kingdom will never end. The longing of every devout Jew was for the coming of this King.

Mary responded to Gabriel with a question.

MARY'S QUESTION (LUKE 1:34)

LUKE 1:34 (ESV)

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

This reminds us of Zechariah's question and the rebuke he received. Zechariah asked out of unbelief. Mary asked out of curiosity. Gabriel answered her freely.

GABRIEL'S ANSWER (LUKE 1:35-37)

LUKE 1:35-37 (ESV)

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

Gabriel explained that the Holy Spirit would supernaturally fertilize Mary's egg. Gabriel's explanation makes clear what was hinted at in Genesis 3:15.

GENESIS 3:15 (ESV)

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

According to God, the one who will defeat Satan will be accounted as the offspring of the woman. This was completely contrary to the method by which the Jews accounted a person's lineage. Usually a person's lineage was accounted by their father, the male bloodline. However, in the case of the deliverer, his lineage will be accounted by his mother. Now we know why. The Messiah King will be born of the virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth's pregnancy should encourage Mary that the miracle required for the virgin conception is possible.

Notice the difference between Mary's response and Zechariah's.

MARY'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL ON HER LIFE (LUKE 1:38)

LUKE 1:38 (ESV)

38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

When Mary said, "...let it be to me according to your word." she was entrusting herself to God's care. This was a very real act of faith. The consequences of being found pregnant before being wed were:

- ▶ Being stoned to death.
- ▶ Being rejected by her betrothed husband, Joseph.
- ▶ Being ostracized by her community in Nazareth.

Mary's attitude of submissive trust in God is a beautiful example of faith. She is not fearful, but is full of joy.

As we continue to tell the story of Yeshua Messiah King, we continue to see that God always does what He says He's going to do. Clear back in the Garden, God declared there would be a deliverer born of woman Who will defeat Satan. That Deliverer is Jesus, the virgin born son of Mary.

The correlation between Genesis 3:15 and the virgin birth of Jesus is an example of the supernatural quality of the Bible. What God spoke at the beginning of human history was specifically fulfilled in the first century. Human beings could not contrive such a correlation.

Jesus' story is the story of God fulfilling the unconditional covenants He has made with mankind and with Israel. Unfortunately little is taught about the eight covenants of God. They are the framework for understanding all God has, is and will do in human history. God interacts with humanity according to His covenants. We see in Messiah's birth announcement a significant reference to the Davidic Covenant. We need to understand the Abrahamic, Land, Davidic and New Covenants if we are going to understand

Jesus' story and why He is the Messiah King. A study of the Eight Covenants is available today after service or anytime through the church office (760.789.0562).

Who does God use to accomplish His story? He uses "nothings" and "somethings" and everyone in between. God doesn't look at outward appearances or worldly accomplishments. He is looking for men, women and children who love Him and want to be part of His story. He is looking for "Mary's" who will gladly embrace His call upon their lives.