

King David's Son Has Come

- 1. Miraculously**
- 2. Prophetically**
- 3. Purposefully**

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Given the economic downturn, even the most romantic might cringe at the \$86,609 price tag for the items in the carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas." That's this year's cost, according to the annual "Christmas Price Index" compiled by PNC Wealth Management, which tallies the single partridge in a pear tree to the 12 drummers drumming, purchased repeatedly as the song suggests. The price is up \$8,508 or 10.9 percent, from \$78,100 last year. In this tight economy, what's a romantic to do?

While probably none of us have ever received nor will receive the items from the "12 days of Christmas", I'm sure there are some more memorable Christmas gifts you have received. As a child maybe you remember a large gift of cash. It was only \$20, but to you that was significant. Or you circled that special toy out of the J.C. Penny Christmas catalog and begged parents or grandparents for it and on Christmas morning, it was there! Perhaps it was an unexpected Christmas bonus from your employer, or a family heirloom was passed down to you at Christmas. Or at Christmas you were able to announce to your parents that you were having a baby, their first grandchild. Memorable gifts...

That's the news the gospel writer Luke brings us this morning. In chapter one he shares the story of the angel Gabriel who appeared to a priest while he was offering incense in the temple. The man's name was Zachariah. Gabriel announced to Zachariah that he and his wife Elizabeth, who in their old age, would have a son, name him John, and he would

be the forerunner to the Christ. John would prepare God's people for the coming of the Messiah. Six months after this announcement, God sends that same angel to a nice Jewish girl living in the backwoods town of Nazareth. Nazareth was about 20 miles west from southern tip of Sea of Galilee. Not much else is known about her other than that her name was Mary. Mary was engaged to a man by the name of Joseph. Matthew tells us he was a righteous man (God-fearing).

The angel Gabriel appears in Mary's room of her home and says, "**Greetings! (Literally, Rejoice!) You who is highly favored! The Lord is with you!**" Nothing extraordinary about this salutation. It was a common greeting of the day. But in vs29 Luke tells us that the young woman was troubled, not so much by his appearance, but by his words. "What kind of greeting is this? Where is this going?" Gabriel calms her fear, as so many angels had done in the past when they visited God's people. "Do not be afraid!" If his appearance and greeting wasn't shock enough, what he said next would make Mary's jaw drop to the ground. "**You have found favor with God.**" God decided to shower his grace upon Mary. Not because of anything she did or who she was. Mary was a nobody from a no-name town. Nazareth, nothing good comes from Nazareth. (John 1:46) By birth Mary was just like every baby who has been born into this world – a sinner, a sinner who needed a Savior. Out of the hundreds, perhaps thousands of young Jewish girls in Palestine, God chose Mary from Nazareth. He chose to show his kindness and mercy to her, and use her for his special divine purpose.

The angel says to her in vs31ff, "**You will conceive, have a son, name him Jesus, he will be great, will be called the son of the Most High, the Lord God will give him throne of his father David, he will reign over house of Jacob forever, his kingdom have no end!**" That'd be nice if ultra sound technicians were able to give us that much information about our children before they were born, just so we would know what's coming! For Mary, that's a lot to take in...but...she says, "Let's go back to that first thing you said... about me conceiving and having a child. I'm a virgin." The Greek word means that she had not yet had sexual relations with a man. She was engaged. But betrothal was different in those days from today's engagement. Joseph and Mary had promised their lives to each other as husband and wife and in God's eyes that was the beginning of their marriage. However, according to custom, they would not live together as husband and wife until a certain time period had elapsed. "Gabriel, this isn't possible since I have not yet nor will soon consummate my marriage with my husband."

When Gabriel announced the conception and birth of John to Zachariah, he didn't believe it. He and his wife were very old, well past the age of child-bearing. Because he did not believe, the angel struck him mute, he couldn't speak until his son was born. Mary's question is not one of unbelief, but she is simply asking for information. "I believe you, but, these are the facts, tell me more..."

In Vs35 Gabriel explains, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of Most High will overshadow you.**" God chose Mary to carry his Son in her womb. God would come in the flesh. A human being would be conceived in her womb who would be spotless, flawless, no inherited sinful nature would be passed down in this pregnancy.

This man would be fully man yet retain the full essence of the God-head. Our human reason wants to pry and ask, “How was this done? How is this possible?” Martin Luther has perhaps the best explanation for us, “He who has created everything out of nothing is able also to create a Son out of the body of Mary; that is called to be conceived by the Holy Ghost. Just how this was done we will not nor can we search out, even if we study over it for a long time, we cannot get the right idea nor comprehend it. And what are we, that we dare to try to grasp such a high divine work? We cannot even with our through comprehend and grasp how a tree or fruit or a blade of grass grows out of the ground.”

The main point of this story is not that we understand it or comprehend it, but that we see God’s power at work, that we see his mercy and grace toward Mary. The main point is that he has caused us to believe it, and that we apply what this mystery means for us today. Perhaps we can begin to understand the working of the Holy Spirit as we reflect on what he has done for us. God didn’t send an angel to your parents to tell them that they were going to have you, what your name would be or what you would do with your life. Sometime in their life God did send the Holy Spirit to create faith in their hearts. Faith moved them to bring you to the baptismal font and have you baptized, knowing that it is here, through the water and the Word that the Holy Spirit works his cleansing power. Through baptism you are a child of God. You have been cleansed from your sinful condition. The Holy Spirit gave you the gift of faith so that you believe these words today that you confess, “I believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.” God chose you, just like he chose Mary, not because you were special. You and I and Mary were all thoroughly corrupt with sin. There is nothing we could do for our salvation. God chose you and selected you to be filled with Holy Spirit, to be born again, to be made perfect, holy, and spotless in his sight. A miracle working of the Holy Spirit....

That same Holy Spirit worked a miracle in the womb of a young Jewish girl in Nazareth. An embryo was formed in that woman, a seed of the woman, the first promise from so long ago in Genesis 3:15, as promised an offspring of the woman came to crush the serpent’s head. That promise was again repeated to Abram, through the Seed of Abraham all nations will be blessed. (Gen 12:2,3) And then again to David. In the First Lesson this morning from 2Samuel 7:8-17, LORD through his prophet Nathan promises David that his son will sit on his throne and he will establish his throne forever. The initial fulfillment of that promise was carried out through Solomon and his children and their descendants. The greater fulfillment was carried out 1000 years later.

In vs27 the holy writer tells us that Joseph was a descendant of David. That would mean that by marriage Mary was connected with the royal household. But Mary was not just legally from the house of David, but naturally. In vs32 Gabriel declares, “The Lord God will give him the throne of **his** father David.” Since Jesus was not the son of Joseph by the flesh, but born of Holy Spirit and Mary, this means that Mary was also descended from David. This was a promise made to King David 1000 years prior, and kept down to the very minute detail. We cannot even keep promises that we made to our spouse, children or friends yesterday!

What does this mean for us? It means that the LORD is who he says he is – the LORD,

in Hebrew Yahweh, the God who makes promises and keeps every single one of them. It means that we can trust God when he makes promises to us. It means that we will put our hope and confidence in the LORD's promises. In baptism he promises that your sins are washed away and that heaven is yours...through the simple sprinkling of water and the spoken Word. In a little bit you will walk up to the altar and hear his promise, that his flesh and blood are actually present with this bread and wine, and that they do indeed offer and grant forgiveness of your sins, and assurance that you are indeed saved...that's his promise.

His promise here in Luke from the angel is that he will reign forever! As I read the news I can't help but notice that there are many who wonder about our next president. What kind of leader will he be? What will the next four years bring us? Will he keep his promises? Regardless of who is in office, senators, representatives, congressman/women, we have term limits in our country. If someone doesn't keep their word, we vote someone new in. If they keep their word and do a good job, we reelect them. Thankfully, we have a leader, a King, who has reigned and will continue to sit on his throne and rule into eternity. Thankfully, we have a King, King David's son, who always keeps his promises. We never have to wonder with Christ, what kind of leader he is.

Unlike politicians who cast votes for their own agenda and presidents and dictators of the world who have only power, money and control on their minds, the King who sits on the throne of David, rules and directs affairs of the world in the best interests of his people. That's you... so that you prosper and are taken care of and are protected. Even though the rulers of this world appear to have control, (or are out of control), the Son of David rules with All Power and All Might. He controlled the events of his own birth! He used the arrogance of the ruler of Rome to take a census of his Empire. Little did Caesar Augustus know that Almighty God used his political play to fulfill his promise: The child shall be born in Bethlehem. That child now rules in eternity forever as our glorious King. He has one promise yet to keep. He promises to return again, a second and final time, to bring you to be there with him and enjoy the glorious riches of his kingdom.

King David's Son has come...miraculously – conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin; prophetically – he came as promised; and purposefully – he came with a purpose: to save you and give you hope through his fulfilled promises.

I'll ask you again... do you remember the most memorable gift you received at Christmas? I propose that you have already received the most memorable gift that you will ever receive. It was given through an announcement to a young virgin in Nazareth, it was placed in a manger in Bethlehem, it was taken down from a cross outside of Jerusalem, and it was the empty tomb. King David's Son has come once for you, and will come again for you. Amen.



Thank you...

...to our guests! (please come and worship our Savior King with us again); our organist and instrumentalists; all who served the Lord this week.

Keep in your prayers this week...

All the unchurched who do not know Jesus as their Savior that we may bring them the saving message of Jesus; **National Pastors Matthias Odey and Simon Orem of the All Saints Lutheran Church of Nigeria** and their families; **Larry Hurley, Jared Sundahl & Michael Hefti** who are serving in the military overseas; **our members** who continue to invite their friends to our mission congregation to hear God's saving Word; **Sherry Jensen** who is at Pewee Valley; that the Lord will bless our outreach efforts and lead many unchurched people to seek Him at this congregation; **our building committee** as they make decisions regarding the new facility; **the Leadership Team** for the time spent with our Stewardship Campaign; **Evelyn Lane** who is suffering from Alzheimer's; **Tom**, friend of the Skinner family, who is suffering illness; that the Lord would bless *Faith Builds the Future* campaign; **Beth Strommen**, friend of the Horn family, who had a double mastectomy and will be undergoing chemotherapy; **Lavina Skinner**, aunt of Sean Skinner, who is near death; **Mel**, uncle of Louise Skinner, who has colon and liver cancer; those who have not been with us for some time.

This Week at Faith...

Monday	Bible Information Class: Lessons 1-2... ..6:30 pm
Tuesday	Building Committee.....5 pm
Wednesday	German Christmas Service..... 5:30 pm with food to follow
	English Christmas Eve Service7 pm
Thursday	Worship with Lord's Supper10:30 am
Next Sunday	No choir Worship.....10 am

Last week's numbers in response to God's amazing grace

Sunday worship: 81
Christmas Carolers at Steward Manor: 12
Wednesday Morning Bible Class: 5

Serving our Lord next week (Dec 28)

Food: Wood/Hogan
Flowers: Wood

Cleaning: Saski, Fullen, Grace, Spencer
Usher/offering counters: **R. Poore and J. Hale**

**Celebration Sunday
January 11th - 10am**

On Celebration Sunday we will reveal the total amount of the pledges received and thank our Lord and Savior for the wonderful blessings he has showered upon us through our Stewardship Program *Faith Builds the Future!*

Let us Worship the Newborn King!

German Candlelight Service - Wednesday - 5:30pm

English Candlelight Service - Wednesday - 7pm

Christmas Day Worship - 10:30am

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols - Dec 28 - 10am