

Text— Luke 1:26-35

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

In last week's sermon we learned of the angel Gabriel and his miraculous message to Zacharias; and, of Zacharias' wife Elisabeth subsequently becoming pregnant in her old age with a son who would be named John, in accord with God's Word spoken by His holy messenger.

Yes, despite Zacharias and his wife being advanced in years past the age when couples can normally have children, Luke 1:23-25 reports, "it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

Our Scripture selection for today continues from where last week's left off. Accordingly, we will now consider:

"THE ANGEL GABRIEL'S MIRACULOUS MESSAGE TO MARY"

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Who Mary was
- 2) What Mary's initial reaction was to the angel Gabriel
- 3) What the angel Gabriel's miraculous message to Mary consisted of

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Verses 26 & 27, ----- (Luke 1:26-27)

The opening two verses of our text introduce us to a woman named Mary. It is twice mentioned that Mary was a virgin; hence, Mary was a woman who had never had sexual relations with a man. Mary was a resident of the city of Nazareth which was

located in Galilee, which was the most northern province of Israel, with Samaria being just south of it and Judea being the southernmost province of Israel.

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph, who was descended from King David's royal line. Interestingly, Mary was also descended from King David's royal line, as her genealogy indicates—hers being listed in Luke chapter three while Joseph's is listed in Matthew chapter one.

It was in the sixth month of Zacharias' wife Elisabeth being pregnant with the child John that *the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

Joseph and Mary were a normal couple engaged to be married as God has ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman— NOT two women or two men! God's Word is clear, for we read in Genesis 2:21-24, "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Additionally, Jesus says in Mark 10:6-9, "from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Accordingly, so-called "marriages" of same-sex couples are sinful, disgusting, disgraceful, and an abomination in the sight of God.

Verse 28, ----- (Luke 1:28)

Mary was a God-fearing woman, a believer who knew the Lord, for the angel Gabriel greeted Mary, saying: *Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.* Yes, the Lord was with Mary; Mary was truly blessed among women, as we shall see as we continue with our text.

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As we ponder the next verse of our text, let us see what Mary's initial reaction was to the angel Gabriel.

Verse 29, ----- (Luke 1:29)

Mary was troubled, disturbed and alarmed, by the greeting she received from the holy angel Gabriel. Mary mulled it over and over in her mind what manner of greeting it was from the holy messenger of God.

Can you imagine how startling it was for Mary when she saw the angel Gabriel and heard him say to her, "*Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women*"? It certainly is NOT a common occurrence for a holy angel of God to visibly appear and speak with someone. Hence, it is no wonder that Mary was troubled.

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see what the angel Gabriel's miraculous message to Mary consisted of.

Verses 30-33, ----- (Luke 1:30-33)

Wow! Talk about some startling, amazing, wonderful news— *the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over*

the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Observe that first the angel Gabriel assured Mary that she had no reason to fear his presence, for he had wonderfully amazing news for her: Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of a Son who she would conceive and was to name JESUS, meaning Savior. Mary was to be part of the fulfillment of the prophecy made in Isaiah 7:14, which states, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Jesus would be Mary's great Son and would also be the Son of the Highest, the SON OF GOD! Thus, Jesus would be and is, true man and true God but one Christ— the Savior of the world. It's as Colossians 2:9 reports concerning Christ Jesus: "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." What an honor and a privilege it was for Mary to be chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus.

To be our Savior it was necessary that Jesus be both true man – sinless man – and true God. Every naturally conceived human being needs the Savior since we all must confess as did David the psalmist, in Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Furthermore, Romans 6:23 declares in no uncertain terms, "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Acts 4:12 adds, in reference to Jesus Christ, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." So, I repeat: every naturally conceived human being needs the Savior.

Take it to heart that never-ending death in hell is what those will face who fail to believe on Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, for Holy Scripture clearly states, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the

world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (John 3:16-18; Mark 16:16) Yes, damnation awaits all those who fail to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Accordingly, it was certainly startling, amazing and wonderful news that Mary received from the angel Gabriel. Not only was it wonderful news for Mary; it is also wonderful news for ALL OF US because without the conception and birth of Jesus the Savior we would be without hope and headed for hell, for 1 John 4:9-10 reports, “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” Indeed, in Christ God’s love toward us has been shown in an immense way since God’s Son Jesus is the slaughter-sacrifice for OUR SINS.

Observe in our text that the angel Gabriel also told Mary, concerning JESUS: *the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

Thus, it is again emphasized that Jesus would be a descendant of David, according to the flesh. Additionally, God would give Jesus the throne of His father David; that is, rulership would be given to Jesus according to His human nature, for according to His divine nature Jesus already had rule over all things. Nevertheless, the point then is this: JESUS is the CHRIST, the everlasting Ruler over the house of Jacob, the Church of God, according to both His human and divine natures. In other words, Jesus Christ the God-man rules forever! Christ’s kingdom has no end!

All would happen as the Old Testament prophet Isaiah had written in Isaiah 9:6-7, where we read,

“unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

All would happen as the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah declared in Jeremiah 23:5-6, which reads, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Indeed, the King would be and is David’s Branch and David’s Lord. The King would be JESUS, the Savior, the Lord who supplies our righteousness— the righteousness we need to enter heaven when we depart this life.

Note well in verse 33 of our sermon text that Jesus’ kingdom has no end: Jesus’ kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Hence, Jesus’ kingdom is NOT some sort of 1,000 year earthly kingdom as the millennialists dream. Hebrews 1:8 relates, “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” So, I repeat Jesus’ kingdom has no end; Jesus’ kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

Jesus rules in the hearts of His believing children, such rulership being His kingdom of grace, for Jesus says in Luke 17:20-21, “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” Jesus rules in His kingdom of power over all things, now and forever, for we read in Acts 17:25 & 28, “he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; For in him we live, and move, and have our being.” Jesus rules in His kingdom of glory in heaven into which all of us who believe on Him will arrive after we depart this life,

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known”— declares 1 Corinthians 13:12. Accordingly, Philippians 2:9-11 informs us concerning Christ Jesus, “God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Yes, of Jesus’ kingdom there shall be no end.

Verses 34 & 35, ----- (Luke 1:34-35)

Mary was a virgin, a woman who had NOT had sexual relations with a man and had no intentions of doing so before her nuptials with Joseph her fiancé had taken place. Accordingly, Mary quite plainly asked the angel who had told her she would conceive, bear a son, and call His name JESUS: *How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?* Indeed, Mary was a God-fearing woman who had found favor with God; but, she wanted to know how it was that she would become pregnant and give birth to the Son of the Highest.

Gabriel, the holy messenger of God, supplied the answers, *for the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

Jesus would be conceived by God the Holy Ghost!
Jesus would be born of the Virgin Mary!
Consequently, although Mary was NOT sinless her Son would be sinless, for His conception would be by the power of God the Holy Ghost.

Note well that our text says that Mary was told: *that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.* Our text does NOT say that Mary is holy; NO, He which was to be born of Mary, and was born of Mary, would be and is Holy. Jesus Christ is the holy Son of God. Jesus is rightly called the Son of God because God is His Father.

Mary’s natural inherited sin was NOT passed on to Jesus since He was conceived by the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, which is why JESUS is referred to in John 1:14 as, “the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” JESUS IS God’s only begotten Son!

It’s sad that the humble Virgin Mary has been turned into an idol by many who call her sinless and co-mediatrix and co-redemptrix. Mary never claimed such things and would be appalled by those who believe and teach such things, because Mary was a believer who had the Lord with her, for she confessed, as Luke 1:46-55 relates, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.”

Yes, Mary knew God her Savior, because Mary knew she needed the Savior herself— the very Savior she would give birth to: JESUS Christ!

Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, IS THE ONE TRUE SAVIOR of the world, as we’ve seen as we’ve considered the angel Gabriel’s miraculous message to Mary as recorded in our sermon text.

Let us therefore daily and sincerely repent of our sins. Let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. And, let us go forward appreciating the wonderful way in which God supplied us with the only true Savior who could and did keep His Law perfectly for us and pay for our lack of keeping God’s Law— Jesus, true God and true man but one Christ, is our only

Redeemer, our only Deliverer from doom. Thank
and praise God for His grace and marvelous mercy.
Amen.

m.e.l.