

You Shall Call His Name Jesus – Part 1

- The announcement of the coming to Mary and Joseph | Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25
 - **Read**
 - **Luke 1:26-38**
 - **Matthew 1:18-25**
 - There are many significant items to note from these passages of Scripture where the coming birth of Jesus Christ was made known to both Mary and Joseph.
 - God sent His angel Gabriel to speak directly to Mary to tell her of God's plan to bring His son Jesus into the world.
 - And God also sent an angel to Joseph to tell him of this wonder and also why He was coming.
 - We will now look at several of the key truths that are told to us in these verses.
 - **The virgin birth of Jesus Christ.**
 - Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel and told something that would forever change her life.
 - She is told that she would conceive a child, not a normal child but the Son of God.
 - Mary of course realized that this was not humanly possible since she was still a virgin, however she is told that this IS possible because of the Holy Spirit.
 - Matthew 1:18
 - "The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit."
 - Luke 1:31
 - "and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."
 - Luke 1:34
 - "And Mary said to the angel, "how will this be, since I am a virgin?"
 - Matthew 1:24-25
 - "When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."
 - **God made a promised and fulfilled it in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ which was impossible by human abilities.**
 - The virgin birth of Jesus was prophesized long ago.
 - When the angel Gabriel came to tell Mary that she would be carrying the Son of God, this was of course news to her. However, this birth had been foretold over 700 years ago.
 - Isaiah 7:14
 - "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel."
 - Matthew referenced this directly in Matthew 1:22-23
 - All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).
 - Isaiah 9:6
 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be

called wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

- **God chose to tell the Israelites ahead of time of the coming Messiah and spoke to what He would become.**
 - **Jesus will rule the nations of the world, have wisdom, will be powerful, live and rule eternally and will bring peace.**
 - This is a summary of everything that Jesus has done, is doing and will do.
- **Why do you think God foretold the birth of Jesus some 700 years prior? Why was this important?**
- **What impact did this announcement have on the Israelites?**
- **What does this prophecy and its fulfilment tell us about God today?**
- **The truth of the virgin birth (and our subsequent belief) is critical to the very foundation of Christianity.**
 - The virgin birth is an important and vital part of Christianity.
 - **Our belief that Jesus is the Son of God hinges upon the truth and belief of the virgin birth.**
 - There are those (even Christians) who disagree with this truth.
 - Obviously the secular and agnostic world doesn't believe it, to them it is supernatural and simply a myth.
 - Nicholas Kristof of the New York Time said:
 - *“The faith in the virgin birth reflects the way American Christianity is becoming less intellectual and more mystical over time.”*
 - Surprisingly there are those who proclaim to be Christians that discount the virgin birth.
 - They say well it was only briefly mentioned in 2 of the Gospels and Paul never spoke of it. Therefore, this isn't something that has to be taken seriously.
 - It is usually these same people who also discount miracles and anything else in Scripture that it outside the ability of humanity.
 - These are those who claim to be Christians but pick and choose what THEY think is true from the Bible.
 - The Bible is either the inerrant Word of God...or it isn't. There is no middle ground.
 - **The virgin birth is vital because it proves the deity of Jesus.**
 - **If Jesus was not born of a virgin, then he wouldn't be the Son of God.**
 - If Jesus wasn't born of a virgin then **he had an earthly father**, then He has no deity. He would be just a normal man.
 - The incarnation of God into the man Jesus, makes it possible for Him to be the ONLY perfect sacrifice to bear our sins upon the cross.
 - **If he was just a normal man, then how could he pay the price for our sins?**
 - **If he was just a normal man, then he would have inherited the sinful nature.**
 - Jesus could NOT be a normal man, He had to be the Son of God.
 - To deny the deity of Jesus, is to deny Jesus Christ. It is to deny God.
 - **If you remove the virgin birth, you dismantle Christianity.**

- **You cannot believe in Jesus and not believe that He is the Son of God.**
 - **What else does the virgin birth of Jesus tell us about God?**
 - **What other reasons do you think God chose to come into the world in this way?**
 - **Jesus is the Son of God who will reign eternally in His Messianic kingdom.**
 - Jesus (being divine) was not going to be a normal child, nor was he going to grow up to be a normal man.
 - Jesus is the son of God and will rule in His messianic kingdom.
 - Luke 1:32-33
 - “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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.
 - **To say that Jesus is the Son of the Most High, is to say that He is equal with God.**
 - This isn’t just a special child that God brought in to the world, this child is the Son of God. This child IS God.
 - **In the culture of the day to be “the son of” meant an exact copy.** The Israelites would have understood this to mean He had God’s attributes
 - **Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob eternally, and he will take up the throne of David.**
 - It was told in the Scriptures that the Messiah would be from the blood line of David, so one might wonder how this is if His father was God.
 - We see this is answered quite easily as His blood line relationship comes through His mother Mary and the royal line through Joseph.
 - **Jesus’s blood lineage from David comes through Mary, and the royal line through Joseph as his earthly legal father.**
 - **Mary’s genealogy – Luke 3:23-38 (Note Mary isn’t noted as no women are listed, only men)**
 - **Joseph’s genealogy – Matthew 1:1-16**
 - **Luke 2:4b**
 - **“...because he was of the house and lineage of David.”**
 - When we think of David’s “throne” it is a symbol of the messianic kingdom, which will last for an eternity.
 - **Jesus was the fulfillment in the covenant that God made with David.**
 - 2 Samuel 7:13
 - “He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”
 - This was also foretold long ago
 - Isaiah 9:7
 - “The dominion will be vast and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this”
- **Jesus’s purpose was declared**

- In the Gospel of Matthew, we have the account where an angel told Joseph of Jesus's purpose, which was to save the world from their sins.
 - Matthew 1:21
 - "She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because **He will save His people from their sins.**"
 - **This is the great purpose as to why Jesus Christ came into the world, He came to die as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.**
 - 1 John 2:2
 - "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."
 - John 3:16-17
 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."
 - **Isaiah prophesied not only his purpose, but also how the world would see him.**
 - Isaiah 53:2-5
 - Isaiah 53:11-12
- **God's always had a plan for Jesus to be the Savior of the world.**
 - **Some may wonder so when did God decide that He would send Jesus to save us?**
 - God had a plan from the very beginning, even when humanity disobeyed and allowed sin into the world.
 - Genesis 3:15
 - "I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."
 - **The seed of Eve is Jesus Christ**
 - Amazingly even right after the fall of man God had already established his plan for the Savior of the world.
 - **Even though Satan had succeeded in introducing sin into the world, God had the perfect solution for a perfect atonement for his creation.**
 - Adam brought death because of Sin, but Jesus brought forgiveness, grace and eternal life.
 - Romans 5:12
 - "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way spread to all men, because all sinned."
 - Romans 5:17-19
 - "For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."

- **What do you feel when you see God’s plan for our salvation unfold through the birth and death of Jesus Christ?**
- **What does this tell us about how we are seen in the eyes of God?**
- **Mary’s and Joseph’s faith**
 - Mary responded in faith to the proclamation of the angel.
 - Luke 1:37-38
 - “For nothing will be impossible with God. 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.”
 - Luke 1:45
 - “And blessed is she **who believed** that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”
 - **This is the very definition of faith**, to believe that what the Lord has promised He will fulfill.
 - Hebrews 11:1
 - “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”
 - **The Scriptures give us a really good perspective on where her heart was when Luke records what she said when visiting Elizabeth.**
 - Luke 1:46-55
- **Mary doesn’t argue or go away in disbelief, instead she showed faith.**
 - Even though Mary was just told about events that would happen to her that were impossible by human knowledge and abilities, she still had faith in what the angel told her.
 - She accepted this knowing that there could be severe consequences when Joseph found out. As adultery was punishable by stoning.
 - **Mary establishes that she is a servant of God and that she will do whatever it is that God requires from her.**
 - **Mary demonstrated her complete trust and confidence in God.**
- Joseph also had faith and obeyed the angel
 - Joseph when he found out contemplated quietly divorcing her, but after the angel spoke with him he obeyed and took Mary as his wife.
 - Matthew 1:19
 - “And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.”
 - Matthew 1:24
 - “When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,”
- **How strong was Mary’s faith for her to believe and obey what the angel Gabriel had proclaimed to her?**
- **Do you see any relation between the faith that Mary and Joseph demonstrated, compared to what God requires for our salvation?**