

— Luke 1.18-38 —
Luke's Advent of Christ 2
**Zacharias Receives a Sign, Elizabeth Conceive,
Gabriel Visits Mary**

Lk 1.18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

► God's promise a son seemed too _____ to be true, so Z seeks a _____. G accommodates Z's weakness, but also rebukes him, while showing a sense of _____. God wants _____ faith, but _____ faith is better than no faith or _____ faith masquerading as real faith.

Mat 4.4 [Jesus] answered ..., "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Mk 9.23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible ..." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Lk 17.4 "[If you brother] sins against you seven times in a day, and ... returns ... saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." 5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

Jn 10.37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him." ... 14.11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

Mk 8.11 Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. 12 But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation."

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. 22 But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. 23 So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. 24 Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, 25 "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

► Imagine trying to _____ an account of a conversation with an angel. Z will have over _____ to ponder and repent of his weakness of faith. God's miracle is very _____ to E. God is giving her a son, and He has removed her reproach, for many would have reasoned or wondered if Z & E had caused God to withhold the blessing of children. E cherishes what God has done, so she _____ the pregnancy for five months.

Jn 9.2 "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." (cf. Job 11.4-6)

► The story jumps forward a month and a _____ miles north (~ ____ days walk) to Nazareth in Galilee.

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by 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. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

► G's proclamation to Mary (28-37) is known in the RC church as "the Annunciation," and G's greeting (28) in the Latin Vulgate (the de facto Bible for the Western church 400-1500AD) is the root of much RC Mariology: e.g., That Mary is a reservoir of _____; That Mary was the result of "immaculate conception," i.e., without original _____; That Mary remained a perpetual _____; That Mary was assumed (taken up), body and soul, into _____ ("the Assumption"). Vs 28 in the Vulgate says, "Hail (greetings), O one full of grace," whereas the original Greek says, "Hail, O favored one" (i.e., a recipient of grace), which is confirmed by vs 30.

31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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.”

► Gabriel is referring to God’s promise to David in 2Sam 7.

2Sam 7.12 “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.”

Solomon fulfilled this preliminarily as a _____ of Christ, but like all OT types, Solomon had failings that made it clear he was only a type, and not the promised Son of David.

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” 35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Mat 1.20-21 tells us that an angel also appeared to Joseph, telling him to take Mary as his wife, for the child she carried was of the Holy Spirit, and the child was to be named Jesus, for he would save his people from their sins. Between the angel’s words to Mary and to Joseph, we can see God connecting two things that we often separate — Christ’s _____ hood and his _____ ship, his purchase of sin’s pardon and his _____ over the world.

Psalm 110.1 The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ... 4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Acts 2.34 “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’”

Acts 2.36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Heb 7.15 [I]n the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. 17 For He testifies: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

36 “Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.”

38 Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mary showed the implicit _____ the Lord desires, and so did Joseph.

Mt 1.20 But while [Joseph] thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife