

Gabriel Visits Mary, Who Visits Elizabeth

Luke 1.26 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. 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." 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. 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. 39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." 46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever." 56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

* Where did Luke get the extra details in his advent account?

* What is the timing and location of Gabriel's visit to Mary in contrast with Zacharias'?

* What is Gabriel's greeting to Mary (vs 28) called, and how is it rendered, by the Church of Rome? How does that play into the Church of Rome's doctrine of Mary? What explains the different renderings of vs 28? What does the original Greek say, and how is that confirmed in vs 30?

* What promise is Gabriel referring to in vs 32-33? How do we know this was pointing to someone other than Solomon?

* How and why does Gabriel treat Mary's question (vs 34) differently than Zacharias'?

* Who else held the title, "Son of God"? What does it signify?

* Where was the "hill country ... of Judah"? What kind of trip was this for Mary?

* What is unusual about the greetings when Mary sees Elizabeth? How do the greetings and Mary's song play into a theme in Luke's advent?

* In her song, Mary draws a parallel between what two servants (vs 48, 54)? What OT theme does this draw on? How does the NC answer that theme?

* What is God's "mercy" (vs 50)?

* Who are the "proud" (vs 51) and "rich" (vs 53), and the "lowly" (vs 52) and "hungry" (vs 53)? What is Mary saying?

* Whence does the main skepticism toward the Incarnation arise, and how does God answer it?