

**Joseph and Mary**  
**Our Coming Savior--part 2**  
**Dec. 20, 2015**

**DAY 1: The identity of the baby to be born, Jesus**

1. Let's take a look at how Mary found out she was pregnant:

*Luke 1:26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,*

<sup>27</sup> *to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

<sup>28</sup> *The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

<sup>29</sup> *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.*

<sup>30</sup> *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.*

<sup>31</sup> *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.*

<sup>32</sup> *He 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,*

<sup>33</sup> *and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*

2. Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Betrothal meant that the man and woman were considered legally married, even though the marriage ceremony (huppah) and consummation did not occur until as much as a year later. Mary became pregnant during the betrothal period, which would normally bring immense shame on her, Joseph and their families.

3. Underline at least five things we learn about the identity of the son to born to Mary.

4. Which attribute about Jesus strikes you the most?

5. If you had been Mary, at this point in the story, what would you have been thinking or feeling?

## **DAY 2: Verification of the identity of the baby; the Virgin Birth**

1. There are several items in these verses that are easily verifiable.

a. Can the lineage of Jesus be traced back to King David, a span of time of about one thousand years? Yes. Both Matthew and Luke record this.

b. In the long run, will this baby to be called Jesus grow up to fulfill the promises Gabriel makes to Mary?

2. Let's pick up where we left off yesterday.

*Luke 2:34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

3. The virgin birth is an important doctrine in the Christian faith.

4. Of course, Mary would have no way of knowing just how important the virgin birth would be. But she is curious about how a baby can be born without a human father.

*Luke 2:35 The 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.*

5. You might wonder if the high claims as to the identity of the baby to be born were a fabrication of Mary's, or if the angel Gabriel really visited Mary and spoke truth to her. There is a simple test. Would she become pregnant? If she became pregnant without any male partner, this would certainly confirm the rest of the message regarding the identity of the baby.

6. She is also convinced of the message because of the visitation of the angel Gabriel.

### **DAY 3: Mary, continued.**

1. Gabriel adds another verifiable proof for Mary and for us...

*Luke 2:36 "Even 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God."*

2. Consider these facts.

(a) Elizabeth was past the age of bearing children.

(b) She had been barren.

(c) Gabriel said that Elizabeth was presently six months pregnant.

(d) The idea of Elizabeth becoming pregnant was so preposterous that Gabriel gives the only logical explanation in Luke 2:37.

3. If you had been Mary, what response would you have had to these last statements?

4. It's at this point that the angel Gabriel finishes the message from God. Here is Mary's response.

*Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

5. What strikes you about her response?

6. Jot down your thoughts as to how you respond to the Lord:

(a) "I am the Lord's servant." Is that how you see yourself?

(b) "May it be to me as you have said." Do you have that kind of simple surrender to God?

#### **DAY 4: Joseph gets word of Mary's pregnancy**

1. Mary tells Joseph what the angel Gabriel had told her. What do you think your response would have been to Mary?

2. What would you have done?

*Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

3. The news of an unwed mother giving birth would have brought great shame to both families. What do we learn about Joseph in v. 19?

*Matthew 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

4. Who showed up in Joseph's dream? (v. 20)

5. How does the message Joseph receives in a dream line up with the message spoken to Mary?

## **DAY 5: Joseph receives the news and acts**

*Matthew 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:*

<sup>23</sup> *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us."*

1. The baby to be born is not just "current news" but comes with a long prophetic past.

2. What does Matthew learn about the identity of the mother? (1:23)

3. What does Matthew learn about the identity of the baby to be born?

4. Here is the prophecy quoted by the angel in the dream.

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

5. As you think about Jesus being born, is your image one of incarnation, of God becoming man, taking on flesh and blood, or do you tend to think of Jesus as "just" a man?

*Matthew 1:24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*

<sup>25</sup> *But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

5. How is Joseph's response to the angel's dream similar to Mary's response to the angel physically present?

6. As we wrap up this week, what stands out to you from:

a. the angel's dealings with Mary and Joseph?

b. Joseph and/or Mary's response?