

Christmas 002 2021

12/12/21

Birth Announcement

Luke 1:26-29

I. Introduction:

A. Birth Announcements.

1. When a couple learns they are having a baby, it's an exciting time for them & for their close friends and extended family.
2. When babies are expected, we tell everyone because we want people to rejoice with us.

II. Special Announcement (Luke 1:26-27)

- *This is the birth announcement of Jesus Christ.*

A. The Timing

1. An angelic birth announcement came to Mary in the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy
2. Zacharias & Elizabeth were elderly couple who had been unable to have children.
3. God sent an angel to them as well, announcing that God would give them a baby boy.
4. Elizabeth's son would be the Messiah's forerunner, namely John the Baptist.
5. In the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary
6. Orchestrated By God: The timing of Jesus' birth was orchestrated by God.
7. Time of Jesus' birth was determined before the world began. God sovereignly brought together all the events & people to bring the Savior into the world. (**Galatians 4:4-5**)
8. "Fullness of time" means all was prepared & it was the exact time Jesus was to be born
9. World events may seem random, but God's sovereign & He is moving human history.

B. The Place

1. Nazareth was small town, off the beaten path in Galilee. No major road ran through it.
2. Nazareth was best known for its population of Roman soldiers and the poor.
3. Philip's brother, Nathaniel, was invited to come & see Jesus.
4. When Nathaniel was told that Jesus was from Nazareth, he responded, "**Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?**" (**John 1:46**)
5. God's Way: God chose a town of no reputation to make most important announcement in human history. Jesus came 1st time as man of no reputation destined to die on the cross.
6. Prophecy in **Isaiah 42** revealed Jesus would come to earth 1st time as suffering servant.

C. The Person

1. The angel Gabriel was sent to young lady named Mary. Not much is known about her
2. Her family was most likely poor, given the town where she lived.
3. She had no reputation outside of her immediate family and social circle. The world would never notice her, yet God knew who she was.
4. She was chosen by God to be the woman who would bring the Savior into the world.
5. Two important things about Mary in verse 27. (**Luke 1:27**)
 - (1) – Espoused to Joseph
 - a. Mary was betrothed, she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.
 - b. Joseph was of the house of David. Thus, Joseph was a descendent of King David, had a legal claim to throne of Israel, & would then be legal heir to Israel's throne.
 - c. Jesus was born in earthly line & lineage of King David.
 - d. Jesus has a legal earthly right to the throne of Israel.
 - (2) – Mary was a virgin.
 - a. One of most controversial doctrines of Christian faith is the virgin birth of Jesus.
 - b. Critics & sceptics have attacked this doctrine from very inception of the church age.

- c. Scripture states that the virgin birth was necessary for a number of reasons.
- (1) Fulfilled Prophecy
 - a. Isaiah prophesied concerning Jesus' birth stating that the incarnation would take place through a virgin. (**Isaiah 7:14**)
 - b. The title "Immanuel" means God with us.
 - (2) Sinless Humanity
 - a. Everyone born of man receives the fallen sin nature of Adam.
 - b. Jesus couldn't be born of Joseph or any man for He came as the sinless one.
 - c. Jesus was God & man at the same time, but He was a sinless man. (**Heb. 4:15**)
 - (3) Not A New Person
 - a. Jesus' birth was not the creation of new person. He preexisted before being born into this world. When humans procreate a new person is created.
 - b. At the moment of conception God creates a new human with an eternal soul.
 - c. Jesus is eternally God, there has never been a time when He did not exist.
 - d. Mary was the instrument God chose to provide a human body whereby Jesus would enter this world, the realm of man.
 - (4) Mary's Testimony
 - a. Mary testifies herself that she's a virgin, because when Gabriel told her she would have a son, she didn't understand how it's possible. (**Luke 1:34-35**)
 - b. Mary's own response confirms she was a virgin. The world will always attack the virgin birth of Christ, but the truth is revealed in God's word.
 - c. Jesus came here by the Holy Spirit's power, not via an earthly father.

III. Angelic Greeting (Luke 1:28-29)

A. **Gabriel Appeared.**

- *Gabriel likely appeared as described elsewhere in the Bible. His greeting has 3 parts:*
 1. – Highly Favored One
 - a. Gabriel greeted her as the highly favored one. The word "favored" means grace.
 - b. In Latin it's translated *gratia plena* or full of grace.
 - c. It was by grace alone God had chosen her to be Jesus' mother, not by her merit.
 - d. Application: We're saved by grace alone, not based on our merit or worthiness.
 2. – The Lord is With You
 - a. Though you live this life in humble obscurity, God is with you.
 - b. Her life was about to get even more difficult as the chosen vessel of God.
 - c. She needed to be reminded that God was with her in all that was to come.
 3. – Blessed Among Women
 - a. Among all women in Israel, God blessed Mary to be the promised Messiah's mother
 - b. She's a blessing to all the world. Through her the Savior would come to redeem us.
 - c. Application: It is always a blessing to serve God regardless of the difficulty.

B. **Mary Was Troubled**

- *Mary was not doubting. She was perplexed over two things:*
 1. – The Appearance Of An Angel
 - a. She was perplexed at this angelic being who spoke to her. Except recently appearing to Zacharias, it had been > 400 years since God gave direct revelation in Israel.
 2. – The Message
 - a. Mary was humble young lady who perhaps wondered why God would choose her.
 - b. She was willing to do whatever God asked, but still in her heart she pondered it all.