

***John 1:14** -And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The gift of God entering into our humanity is the greatest sacrificial gift of all time. The Only Begotten Son leaving His glory to enter into man's sinful mess so we could become one with God; a picture of pure love; one can give of their excess or out of necessity but a God that would give Himself to us. He didn't say work your way up to my Kingdom, He brought His kingdom to us. The Word- took on flesh and love was delivered to mankind. The first to experience His love were the young, poor and the rejected. His name was to be Jesus which means "The Lord Saves". The all knowing, all powerful, uncontainable Son of God would enter into the weakness of man. The Son of God became the Son of Man.

The incarnation-God entering flesh, is an act of addition, not subtraction.

In the incarnation, the eternal Son who has always possessed the divine nature has not changed or set aside his deity. Instead, He has *added* to himself a second nature, namely a human nature consisting of a human body and soul ([Phil. 2:6-8](#)). As a result, the individual Jesus is one person—the Son—who now remains in two natures and thus is fully God and fully man.

God's love chose a humble teenage girl for a divine appointment that would pull back the veil for all humanity to experience God.

When Mary received the word of the Lord that she a virgin would conceive and carry to term the Son of God she responds with incredible faith and trust.

Luke 1:26-38 (NKJV) 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.

Mary, barely a teenager-historians believe based upon the context 12-14 yrs of age doing her normal everyday village tasks. I am sure she had never had an angelic encounter yet was in a position of belief and trust to know that this was definitely from God. **God doesn't choose the extraordinary, He chooses the humble, the needy, the empty vessels that He knows will allow Him to fill them completely.**

Luke 1:28- Rejoice, highly favored [one,] the Lord [is] with you; blessed [are] you among women!

favored-, compass with favor, to honor with blessings induce with special honor: **God loves everyone the same but He doesn't favor everyone the same. She was sovereignly chosen!**

Highly favored doesn't mean easy. Highly favored from heavens perspective carries serious weight but delivers the miraculous. Mary and Joseph had to be ridiculed, mocked, looked down upon yet it did not change the promise of God. When we receive a promise from God, He doesn't always let everyone in on what has happened in a personal way in your life. There may not be a model and God is calling us to step into promise from a place of faith, remember He uses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.

He is willing to pour into a vessel not based upon what they have accomplished but to those who are willing to lay down and go lower still in order that they can live in Him. We are all created to carry promise and birth something miraculous in our lifetime for the glory of God **The first thing Mary had to do was to receive the promise and then nurture, protect it from mans opinions.**

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Don't we all have the same questions as Mary. How can this be? How can this be accomplished through me? Are you sure you have the right person? **God doesn't see our limitations like we do, He just knows what He can do through a willing vessel, It's not our giftedness that will bring the miraculous it is our yieldedness.**

So how will it happen you will be Overshadowed!

Mary was actually satisfied with this response. Faith and favor/grace make impossibilities seem possible. Human reasoning cannot get you there! A child like trust can. **The Holy Spirit will come on you and you will be overshadowed by the most High God. Doubt didn't rush in**

when she received the word of the Lord. Faith did. She was ready to receive the word because of her belief!

Your weakness, your frailty will be overshadowed (enveloped) by the power and glory of God Himself. That is the partnership. You trust Him, you come in close and He overshadows you!

Overshadow- to throw a shadow upon, to envelop in a shadow, to cover with a cloud, to envelop with divine presence **Strong's Definitions: to envelop in a haze of brilliancy;**

This word overshadowed is used in two other contexts in the New Testament

Jesus was overshadowed (Luke 9-Mount of Transfiguration)

Peter was overshadowed (Acts 5)(Peter's shadow was healing those on street)

Being overshadowed is thematic in the Old Testament with imagery that brings us into the Holy of Holies.

We are invited to live in the shadow of His wing.

Psalm 91 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

The secret place would be speaking of the Holy of holies where within could be found the manifest glory of God upon the Ark of the covenant.

Exodus 25:21-22 (NKJV) 21 "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. 22 "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which [are] on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

The ark of the covenant (Holy Box) that Gods shekinah glory would rest upon the gold lid of the box was called the mercy seat, with two Angels with outstretched wings that would touch stretched across the entire lid. To be overshadowed in that context would be so near to His Presence that you were under angels wings themselves.

Psalms 91:4 (NKJV) He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth [shall be your] shield and buckler.

So Mary experienced God's Presence through this mighty work. She simply had to rest under His covering (haze of brilliance) and He would do the miraculous.

Mary would have understood from the law, prophets and psalms that this was God's way to carry out His miraculous purpose. Overshadowed is temple language pointing back to the divine Presence that filled the Holy of holies.

Exodus 40:34-35 (NKJV) 34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

To dwell under God's wings is to live within His covenantal presence, where protection flows from proximity to Him. This was the same presence that once dwelled behind the veil. Something set apart, sacred, and world-changing was happening when Mary was overshadowed. The same presence and glory that filled the holy of holies, the same Presence of God that rested on the Ark of the Covenant would overshadow her. **It was unimaginable that this Holy God who was found behind the veil and approached once a year by the high priest would would sovereignly overshadow a young girl, outside the perimeters of the temple.** It was God's glory that made the temple holy.

Overshadowed reveals

1. Gods Creative power
 - In Mary's case, it signifies new creation, echoing Genesis 1:2 where the Spirit hovers over the waters.
2. God initiating, not man
 - The action is entirely God's—holy, sovereign, and purposeful.
3. Sacred space
 - When God overshadows something, it becomes holy ground.

Look the similarities between the Ark and Mary!

Ark (2 Samuel 6)

Ark goes to hill country of Judah

David: "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?"

Ark stays 3 months

Ark brings blessing

Ark overshadowed by glory

Mary (Luke 1)

Mary goes to hill country of Judah

Elizabeth: "Why is this granted to me?"

Mary stays about 3 months

Mary brings blessing

Mary overshadowed by Spirit

For Jewish ears, this would scream Ark / Holy of Holies

Several years ago I wrote the following.

I believe Mary is also a prophetic picture of the church that will give birth to the full revelation of Jesus Christ. The church that is Presence centered and lives overshadowed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth the miraculous.

Just as Mary be me the picture of the New Testament Ark, so do we!

Herbert Lockyer in ‘all the doctrines of the Bible’ says at his incarnation, Christ added to his already existing divine nature a human nature and became the God man. At our regeneration, there was added to our already existing human nature, a divine nature and we thus become partakers of the divine nature. Thus like Christ, every true Christian is divine human.