

“Joy to the World”
Part 1
“The Surprise”

Luke 1

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said,

“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** 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, **33** and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on 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. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

- This passage represents one of the Great Surprise moments in the Bible...

Vs. 26

“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth...”

- The one Elizabeth was pregnant with was John the Baptizer...

- He is the voice of one calling out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord.”
- He is the forerunner for the Lord.
- It’s interesting that the message came on the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy...

Numbers in the bible can mean something...

5 = Grace

6 = Is the # of Man

7 = Completion

Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day. *Genesis 1:31*

Sandwiched between Grace and Completion is the man Christ Jesus...

On the 1st Christmas there was a Surprise Visit...

On the 1st Christmas there was a Surprise Message...

“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.”

Vs. 29

“*Mary was greatly troubled* at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.”

troubled: to disturb or agitate greatly.

Vs. 30

“*But the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.**”*”

favor:

- *that which affords joy,*
- *loving-kindness,*
- *the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace.*

*The Surprise Visitor lets Mary know don't be afraid...
You have found favor with God...*

- *Mary was probably pleasantly surprised by the Angels words of affirmation...*
- *But the Biggest Surprise came after...*

Vs. 31-35

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

32 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, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

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

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on 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.

- The Angel says you have found favor with God
- And you are going to have son, He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High...
- God will give him the throne of his father David...
- and he will reign.. and his kingdom will never end...

The Surprise is so Great Mary says "How will this be"?

"The Holy Spirit will come on 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.

- When the Holy Spirit comes on you...
- And the Power of the Most High Over shadows you...
- God is about to birth something on the inside of you...

-
- Then Mary did something very Wise...
 - She made the Smartest Decision a person can make...
 - She said Yes to the Lord...

- She submitted herself to God and agreed with the Lord...

Vs. 38

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Closing:

This Christmas Season I pray that we would do the same...

May we be Surprised by his presence...

Surprised by his Voice...

Surprised by his Grace and Favor over our lives...

And May we Agree with the Lord and say Yes Lord have your way in me...

Communion: