

A Message from God
Luke 1:26-38

The Message from God is Distinctive

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.* 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Holiness

- Mary's virginity highlights her holiness despite living in a wicked city (John 1:45-46).
- Mary's espousal was so serious that breaking the commitment would require divorce. Therefore, her acceptance of God's assignment had the potential to affect her day-to-day life and cripple her reputation.

Humility

- Mary was blessed with the presence of God, but God, using her, did not provide her power.

Honor

- In the process of figuring out what the interaction with the angel meant, Mary considered all the potential outcomes before Gabriel calmed her by reminding her of God's favor in her life.
 - o James 4:6 – But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
 - o Psalm 138:6 – Though the Lord *be* high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: But the proud he knoweth afar off.

The Message from God is Descriptive

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Specifics of His Designation

- His name means Jehovah is Salvation
 - o John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - o Romans 8:3 – For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
 - o Galatians 1:4 – Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
 - o Hebrews 7:25 – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Specifics of His Deity

- The greatness of Jesus would not be by the standards of the world, but by the standards of God.
- God, who is the highest, sent a message that Jesus would be called the Son of the Highest, acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God.
 - o Matthew 27:11 – And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, *Thou sayest.*
 - o Romans 9:5 – Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.
- The kingship of Jesus was promised by God. The people rejected Him as King because it was God's promise to fulfill, not theirs.

Specifics of His Dominion

- Furthermore, because His kingdom would have no end, He could not become the king to the people in the physical sense that they desired. He had to be elevated through His death, burial, and resurrection to honor the spiritual kingdom and commitment.
- His assignment is final and cannot be overturned.
 - o John 19:36 – For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

The Message from God is Declarative

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? **35** And the angel answered and said unto her, *The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.* **36** And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. **37** *For with God nothing shall be impossible.* **38** And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; *be it unto me according to thy word.* And the angel departed from her.

The Protection of God

- The presence of the Trinity in this verse shows that Jesus' conception was through the Holy Ghost, and Mary's protection was from God. Remember, God's creation is spoken into existence.
 - o Genesis 1:2 – And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- Jesus is from the Holy Ghost, the Highest (God), and Holiness
 - o Galatians 4:4 – But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

The Possibilities with God

- The possibilities of God are not limited by the problems of man.
 - o Matthew 17:20 – And Jesus said unto them, *Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*
 - o Matthew 19:26 – But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, *With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*
 - o Proverbs 3:5 – Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding.

- Job 42:2 – I know that thou canst do every *thing*, And *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

The Promptness toward God

- Labeling herself as a handmaid, Mary was sharing her willingness to complete surrender to God's plan, purpose, and path for her life.
 - Matthew 12:50 – *For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*
 - Luke 14:33 – *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*
 - Psalm 143:10 – Teach me to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: Thy spirit *is* good; lead me into the land of uprightness.
- Accepting God's will also entails accepting the criticism of man. Mary was an unwed mother (Luke 1:27), which came with the assumption of betrayal to Joseph and the penalty of death (John 8:5).