

Tuesday 12.14.21 - The AWE from Heaven <https://wp.me/p7jDK1-9TX>



It is not so much a horrible scandal these days when a couple gets married she is pregnant or has babies from another marriage. 50 years ago, it was far more complicated especially if the couple were Christian believers and gave the old tongue wagers something juicy to wag their tongues about.

However, centuries ago it would be unthinkable. So, when Mary told Joseph that she was pregnant before the marriage and it was a huge deal and if it were found out Mary could have been stoned to death by the radical religious right called the Pharisees.

For things to go as the Father had planned and to make sure things went as smoothly as possible the first thing was to get Mary onboard. She was a virgin and certainly news this scandalous needed some convincing to be done for Mary. So, God dispatches the angel Gabriel, who stands in the presence of the Lord, to speak to Mary. Not just any angel could handle such a delicate matter, but Gabriel was sent on two missions.

First he appeared to Zechariah who was an old man serving God in the Temple and told him his wife was going to have a son even though both were quite elderly, and his wife was barren...but not no more!!! And just to make things interesting he took Zechariah's ability to speak away from him until his son John is born.

Now let me insert a note here. All this upheaval is beginning to happen following Israel's not having heard from God for 400 years. Zip, nada, nothing from on High. No prophets. No Angels. No pillar of fire by night nor pillar of cloud by day to let everybody know God was still around. These 400 years are called the Intertestamental period...till Gabe appears to Zechariah. Think about that...we have been a nation for only 245 years...but I digress.

For his next mission...when the time was right...Gabriel appears to Mary a virgin girl in Nazareth who was engaged to Joseph. He tells her...

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

Now that would be great news to anyone. She learns that for some reason she was “highly favored...and that the Lord is with her!!!”

And then comes the news that Israel had been waiting to hear for hundreds of years. She is told...

“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

If it had been today she would have said, "Can I get that in writing?" No...she accepted the news from Gabriel and simply said...

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

This is the moment that heaven has been waiting for since Adam and Eve got evicted from Eden. God told them someone would be sent to them, and he would crush the head of the serpent. Little did they know that this agent from God would be the Son of God Himself and He sneaks into humanity, undercovers...or wrapped in swaddling clothes...not disguised as a baby...but as an actual real human baby brought into the world exactly like you and I were born.

Imagine the scene in heaven as the angels watched all of this. Waiting for hundreds of years wondering how God was going to begin to fix this mess that was happening on earth. They send a choir of angels to sing and wake up the shepherds. They bring wise men from the East with gifts, and they found the correct address because a supernatural star was guiding them.

Paul writes about it and says...

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters. Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

I would like you to do something with me. Christmas can be a wonderful time of the year if you can be with your family...and if you like your family. Where gifts can be given and received, and we show one another that we love each other.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for everyone. Absence from the family because there has been a divorce or separation can create much pain and sorrow. Or perhaps you live in Kentucky recently hit by a tornado and everything you had has fallen into a heap of junk.

Perhaps a loved one has died from natural causes or even Covid-19. Christmas is a time to be in AWE that Christ became a man to die for our sins. However, for many, life at this time can be AWE-FULL.

I urge you this year to think about who around you needs to be shown love. Who has needs for the essential things of life instead of fancy presents in a pretty box? Who needs to be reaffirmed that you love them and are thankful God has brought them into your life?

Or perhaps we need to leave our gift at the alter and to go and make amends to those our foolish actions have wounded.

But do not overlook the AWE of this remembrance of the Son of God being born in a manger.
In the fullness of time.