

God's Big Announcement Series

Jesus is Coming (Lk. 1:26-33)

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At A Glance:

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These sermon study notes are designed to be a tool used after listening to the sermon. This resource is a guide to help deepen understanding regarding the Scriptures and ideas presented in the sermon. Those who use these study notes are encouraged to look up, read through, and think about Scripture references in this guide. There is more information in these notes than what is presented in the sermon. These study notes are designed to be used as an independent study tool to help the formation of Biblical convictions, character, and conduct.

Jesus is Coming

I. Introduction

A. Illustration: Getting Ready for Christmas

1. How many of you start decorating for Christmas or listening to Christmas music before Thanksgiving is over? I figured my wife and daughters aren't the only holiday cheaters. This past week, our family started listening to Christmas music, even turning on the radio to hear the transition on the radio—which occurred two minutes early. Christmas decorating has been going on, including the replacement of non-working lights. Our new fake Christmas tree has been put up and lit. Several Christmas movies have been watched, including a post-Thanksgiving tradition of Elf. Presents have started to get purchased. Christmas shirts have been worn. We even had our first cup of eggnog.
2. Why are we excited to do all these activities to get ready for Christmas, an event that is coming up at the end of the month? Because all these help us enjoy and look forward to what is coming to a greater degree. Christmas is a significant event as it reminds us of and turns our attention toward the arrival of Jesus our Savior. Jesus is special to us, and the celebration of His birth is special to us. Preparing for Christmas enriches the importance of the event we are celebrating.

B. Important and significant events are usually prepared in advance and come with an attitude of anticipation and excitement. Significant events don't just happen when they commence; because these events are significant, there is always a leading up to the event. Vacations are planned and supplies gathered before we leave. Anniversaries are thought about and arranged ahead of time. Births of children are anticipated and prepared for. A lot of pre-work goes into weddings. All these significant events have steps of preparation.

C. In the same way, God seems to be excited to make a big announcement as He prepares for His own significant event—the birth of Jesus. This event was promised long ago and described in many ways, which created anticipation. This event needed to be planned and details arranged. God treats the birth of Jesus like a significant event that required preparation.

D. But we may ask the question, why was the birth of Jesus treated like such a significant event by God? The answer to this question is found in Luke 1:26-33 as the angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary the mother of Jesus. As we are going to learn, Jesus is a much bigger deal than most people realize. If our lives are going to be rightly ordered in a healthy way, we need to understand the significance of Jesus.

II. A Supernatural Announcement

A. God begins His big announcement to the world by communicating it directly from heaven through an angel:

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at

this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was.³⁰ And 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 give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. (Lk. 1:26-31)¹

- B. Gabriel is a messenger sent by God to communicate God’s message (“the angel Gabriel was sent from God”, v. 26).² Mary is getting her information right from the source. Gabriel, even as an angel, is not appearing to Mary and giving her this message on his own initiative; He was told to do it by God Himself. Gabriel is communicating accurate information, as we discover as the course of events play out. Events happen just as Gabriel said they would, which is a sign of a true prophet. All of Gabriel’s words were accurate.
- C. Gabriel is known primarily as a messenger of God. He was involved in God’s communications to humanity. The angel Gabriel explained a vision to Daniel (Dan. 8:16), instructed Daniel (Dan. 9:21), and he communicated the birth announcement of John the Baptist (Lk. 1:19), in addition to appearing to Mary. Although Gabriel isn’t mentioned often, he is consistently presented as an angel of God who is involved with divine communications from God to humanity. While Gabriel may have been involved in more communications from God, he is only mentioned by name in Daniel and Luke.³
- D. Mary is going to have a child by supernatural means, and she is to name this one-of-a-kind child Jesus (“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus” (v. 31). How this whole process is going to happen is explained later (Lk. 1:34-35). The nature of this birth is necessary because of the identity of the child to be born. All this comes because of God’s favor—an outcome of grace. To have God’s favor is to receive benefits from God’s generosity and goodwill that He chooses to give freely.⁴ All this favor is being given to Mary from God. These actions of God are being done to Mary.⁵ Mary is not producing the actions, she is receiving them.⁶ God is going to support and encourage Mary with everything that is involved with the birth and raising of this child.⁷
- E. Names are significant in the Bible because they reflect the nature or prominent characteristics of the person. Names capture who the person is.⁸ For this reason, names are chosen with care and are sometimes given (or changed) by God. Individuals who play important roles in the plan of God are frequently given a name by God. In this case, God determines the name of the child from the very beginning because of the significance of the child. This special child will be named Jesus because He will save God’s people from their sins. The name Jesus means “Yahweh saves”

¹ The other birth narrative of Jesus is found in Matthew 1:18-2:23.

² Luke 1:19

³ It is suggested that Gabriel was also involved, though not named, in Daniel 10-12.

⁴ Logos 10 Bible Study Software Exegetical Guide on Luke 1:28 and 1:30 “favored one” and “favor”

⁵ I. Howard Marshall, [*The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*](#), New International Greek Testament Commentary (Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1978), 65.

⁶ I. Howard Marshall, [*The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*](#), New International Greek Testament Commentary (Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1978), 66.

⁷ Alan J. Thompson, [*Luke*](#), ed. Andreas J. Köstenberger and Robert W. Yarbrough, Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament (B&H Academic, 2016), 22.

⁸ Richard C. Blight, [*An Exegetical Summary of Luke 1–11*](#), 2nd ed. (Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2008), 42.

or “God the Savior.” It was also given independently to Joseph as well (Mt. 1:21).⁹ Luke understood the birth of Jesus to be the birth of a Savior (Lk. 2:11).

- F. Mary was blessed and highly favored by God, and she didn’t even know it (“But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was”, v. 29). In short, Mary was confused about the greeting she heard.¹⁰ Mary was surprised to hear God’s attitude toward her (“favored one! The Lord is with you”, v. 28 and “you have found favor with God”, v. 30). As confusing as the rest of the message was, Mary couldn’t get past the greeting, and she immediately began thinking about it after hearing it. Mary wondered why she would be treated as those who were essential elements of God’s eternal plan. Mary was joining the ranks of Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Samuel, and David.
- G. God’s favor doesn’t always come in a way we expect. Like Mary, we can’t gauge God’s attitude and feelings toward us by considering our life circumstances. It seems Mary was confused about this greeting from God because it didn’t seem to match her understanding of her circumstances or her importance to God. She was confused why she was being told that she is favored and that God is with her. She must not have thought or felt as if this was true.
- H. Through Mary, we learn a valuable lesson about what it means to live a life of faith: we trust God’s word over our own thoughts and feelings. We should be critical of ourselves and confident in the word of God. This response isn’t ignorant or foolish; it is based on our knowledge of God. We accept that God knows our circumstances better than we do. He tells us what He thinks and how He feels. Although Mary didn’t think she was favored by God, she was! Although Mary didn’t feel as if God was with her, He was! Up until this moment, Mary probably thought she was just a normal person going about her life. It wasn’t until the angel Gabriel came to her and greeted her in this manner that her eyes were opened to the truth of her condition before God. Mary was to be a powerful force in the plan of God because God looked favorably on her. We are not the ultimate determiners of truth, God is.
- I. Those of us who belong to Jesus are never alone, since Jesus promises to be with us until the end of time (Mt. 28:20, Heb. 13:5). We who are rightly connected to Jesus are favored just as Mary was (Eph. 1:6)—although in a different way. We, as disciples, sit in the same spiritual condition as Mary. God is with us, and we are favored by Him. This is true regardless of what our lives look like, as long as it is our personal conviction that Jesus is the One through whom our sins are forgiven, and we love Him for who He is. This is the spiritual condition we receive from Jesus. While this may be confusing to think about and we may wonder, “Why does God love me?”, we must trust that God favors us just like He says. Like Mary, we must accept the truthfulness of God’s word, despite our thoughts and feelings. God tells us where we stand with Him and we accept what He says. Remember, people even considered Jesus as cursed by God!

III. God’s King will Arrive

⁹ Alfred Plummer, [*A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel according to S. Luke*](#), International Critical Commentary (London: T&T Clark International, 1896), 23

¹⁰ Logos 10 Bible Study Software Exegetical Guide on Luke 1: . Howard Marshall, [*The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*](#), New International Greek Testament Commentary (Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1978), 66, Leon Morris, [*Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 3, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 89.

- A. We need to ask ourselves the question, why was Jesus' birth announced in this way? Hundreds of thousands of people are born every day, and each birth takes place without this fanfare. God doesn't announce each person's birth. What made the birth of Jesus so special? The answer to this question comes in the rest of the message given to Mary by Gabriel.
- B. Gabriel doesn't just announce the arrival of Jesus, he also describes who this child is and what He will do:
- ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end." (Lk. 1:32-33)
- C. The reason God the Father is making this big announcement is because of the identity of Jesus and who He is ("He will be great", v. 32). Jesus will be remarkable in and out of the ordinary way.¹¹ The wonderful uniqueness of Jesus is then described in a summary of His life and what He will accomplish. The main elements of the identity of Jesus are communicated in what follows the statement that Jesus will be great. Notice the future orientation of the message; all these events are looking forward. Even Mary's conception is yet future (Lk. 1:35). This message about Jesus being born is given before the events themselves occur. This proclamation has divine fingerprints all over it.
- D. Jesus will hold a specific title ("will be called Son of the Most High", v. 32). Jesus is not the Son of God in the sense that we are all children of God.¹² No, something else is meant. Jesus is the one-of-a-kind, unique representation of God on earth.¹³ This is what the title means. As most concisely put, "He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature" (Heb. 1:3). Even unbelieving Jews understood what this title meant: Jesus is made equal to God the Father (Jn. 5:18). The title "Son of the Most High" is the same as "Son of God".¹⁴ Clearly something unique is meant by this title as it is connected to Jesus' supernatural birth (Lk. 1:35).
- E. Jesus won't just be called the Son of God; He will also be a King. Jesus is royalty and will be in the line of the great kings of Israel ("give Him the throne of His father David", v. 32). Jesus is a royal ruler as a descendant of the greatest king in Israel's history, David. A direct connection between David and Jesus is being made here.¹⁵ Jesus is the fulfillment of promises made to David, especially the promise to have a descendant sitting on the throne as king (2 Sam. 7:12-16, Ps. 2:7-9).
- F. Jesus will not just be another king in Israel's history, even if He is as great as David or Solomon. Jesus is the special, unique king that God promised called the Messiah ("He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end" (v. 33)).¹⁶ The kingdom of Jesus will be unlike any other kingdom. Jesus is the greatest and most significant king of God's people. His

¹¹ Logos 10 Bible Study Software Exegetical Guide on Luke 1:32 "great"

¹² As in Luke 6:35.

¹³ Leon Morris, [*Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 3, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 89.

¹⁴ Richard C. Blight, [*An Exegetical Summary of Luke 1-11*](#), 2nd ed. (Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2008), 42.

¹⁵ There is discussion surrounding whether Jesus is a legal descendent of David only through Joseph or if this lineage is also present through Mary. In either case, Jesus is a descendant of David and thus can fulfill this requirement of being the Messiah (Mk. 12:35, 10:47, 11:10, Lk. 18:38, 20:41, Rm. 1:3).

¹⁶ Hebrews 1:8

rule and kingdom will be better than all others. In fact, it has a divine quality—it is eternal (Isa. 9:7).¹⁷ While some reigns lasted only a few years, the long ones lasted forty or fifty years but came to an end when the king died. Jesus as King will reign forever, without end.

- G. In this big announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary the mother of Jesus, we begin to understand why Jesus is such an important and significant person. We are given the reason why His birth is being announced from heaven—multiple times! Jesus is a unique and great person who will provide salvation in the form of forgiveness of sins. He will be a King. He is the Messiah who will rule over the entire world forever. For these reasons, God the Father is getting our attention regarding the birth of this child.
- H. Have you begun to understand how important Jesus is? Jesus deserves to be the centerpiece of every person's life as their highest value and object of worship. Whether people know it or not, Jesus is the most important person in their life. This is why when each of us enter eternity after our life in this world comes to an end, we will kneel before Him (Phil. 2:8-11). One day, every person who has ever existed will learn the importance of who Jesus is by admitting that Jesus is the rightful ruler and authority over humanity—the Lord. Acknowledging the importance of Jesus is our destiny. We will all bow down before Jesus, whether willingly or not. The best outcome is to do it willingly as soon as possible. Let Jesus be in charge of your life and learn how to live in the abundant life He offers.
- I. If you don't know what it means to live the life that is made available through Jesus, we have people who are here to help you, myself included. We have a plan to help you learn about the life Jesus offers and assist you in moving forward in your journey with Jesus. We call this our Four E Disciple Making Plan. We have put together Bible studies that can help you learn more about how to live for Jesus and how to move forward with Jesus. You can use these on your own or, even better, you can use these with the help of someone who has been walking with Jesus for a long time. Start now, don't put it off. It is in your best interest to obey and worship Jesus now rather than waiting until it is forced on you. By then, it's too late and the benefits of Jesus will no longer be available to you.

IV. Conclusion

- A. God's big announcement is the birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus was announced directly from heaven to those who were involved. This message came from angels who stand in the very presence of God who were sent by God to communicate His message.
- B. This announcement was made because of the significance of who Jesus is and the importance of what He will do. God wants the world to pay attention to Jesus and receive the salvation He offers. What follows is a life lived under the Kingly authority of Jesus. This is Biblical message of God in summary. Have you realized the significance of Jesus?

¹⁷ 2 Sam. 7:13, 7:16, Ps. 89:3-4, 89:28, 132:11-12, Mic. 4:7, Dan. 7:14