

PEACE beyond understanding

FEAR NOT! GENDER REVEAL?

"THERE ARE THREE STAGES IN ANY GREAT WORK ATTEMPTED FOR GOD: IMPOSSIBLE, DIFFICULT, DONE." J. HUDSON TAYLOR

LUKE I:8 NOW IT HAPPENED THAT WHILE HE WAS PERFORMING HIS PRIESTLY SERVICE BEFORE GOD IN THE APPOINTED ORDER OF HIS DIVISION,

9 ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF THE PRIESTLY OFFICE, HE WAS CHOSEN BY LOT TO ENTER THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD AND BURN INCENSE.

10 AND THE WHOLE MULTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE WERE IN PRAYER OUTSIDE AT THE HOUR OF THE INCENSE OFFERING.

I I, I 2 AND AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM, STANDING TO THE RIGHT OF THE ALTAR OF INCENSE. ZACHARIAS WAS TROUBLED WHEN HE SAW THE ANGEL, AND FEAR GRIPPED HIM.

13 BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO HIM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, ZACHARIAS, FOR YOUR PETITION HAS BEEN HEARD, AND YOUR WIFE ELIZABETH WILL BEAR YOU A SON, AND YOU WILL GIVE HIM THE NAME JOHN.

FEAR NOT! TRUST ME ZECHARIAH BELIEVE IN – BELIEVE HAPPY HOME – LONG MARRIAGE HAPPY FAITH – JOY TO SERVE HAPPY LIFE – GOOD MAN HAPPY JOB – CHOSEN AS PRIEST HAPPY TO OBEY – NAMED BABY 'JOHN'

"A PERFECT FAITH WOULD LIFT US ABSOLUTELY ABOVE FEAR." GEORGE MACDONALD

26 NOW IN THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD TO A CITY IN GALILEE CALLED NAZARETH,

27 TO A VIRGIN ENGAGED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID; AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY.

28,29 AND COMING IN, HE SAID TO HER, "GREETINGS, FAVORED ONE! THE LORD IS WITH YOU." BUT SHE WAS VERY PERPLEXED AT THIS STATEMENT, AND KEPT PONDERING WHAT KIND OF SALUTATION THIS WAS.

30 THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY; FOR YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD.

FEAR NOT! POSSIBLE FOR ME MARY "HOW CAN THIS BE?" (VS 34) HUMANLY IMPOSSIBLE HUMANLY IMPROBABLE HUMANLY IMPRACTICAL "FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD." LK 1:37

"THERE ARE THREE STAGES IN ANY GREAT WORK ATTEMPTED FOR GOD: IMPOSSIBLE, DIFFICULT, DONE." J. HUDSON TAYLOR

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18 NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS AS FOLLOWS: WHEN HIS MOTHER MARY HAD BEEN BETROTHED TO JOSEPH, BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER SHE WAS FOUND TO BE WITH CHILD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

19 AND JOSEPH HER HUSBAND, BEING A RIGHTEOUS MAN AND NOT WANTING TO DISGRACE HER, PLANNED TO SEND HER AWAY SECRETLY.

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20 BUT WHEN HE HAD CONSIDERED THIS, BEHOLD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM, SAYING, "JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY AS YOUR WIFE; FOR THE CHILD WHO HAS BEEN CONCEIVED IN HER IS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

21 SHE WILL BEAR A SON; AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."

22 NOW ALL THIS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL WHAT WAS SPOKEN BY THE LORD THROUGH THE PROPHET:

23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS, "GOD WITH US."

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24,25 AND JOSEPH AWOKE FROM HIS SLEEP AND DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED HIM, AND TOOK MARY AS HIS WIFE, BUT KEPT HER A VIRGIN UNTIL SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A SON; AND HE CALLED HIS NAME JESUS.

FEAR NOT! NO SHAME IN ME JOSEPH WHAT DO YOU FEAR? WHOM DO YOU FEAR? GOOD REASONS – FEAR FOR HER & CHILD GOOD CHARACTER 'RIGHTEOUS' – COMPASSIONATE – OBEDIENT

"FAITH IS THE REFUSAL TO PANIC." D.MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

"THE ONLY KNOWN ANTIDOTE TO FEAR IS FAITH." WOODROW KROLL

HOW JESUS CAME TO US IS PART OF THE GIFT!

LOOKING AT EXPECTATIONS – ZECHARIAH LOOKING AT IMPOSSIBILITIES – MARY LOOKING AT PERCEPTIONS – JOSEPH LOOKING ONLY TO JESUS!