

Decorated?

MARY'S FAMOUS SONG OF PRAISE... BUT WAS SHE ALWAYS HERE?

LET'S UNTIDY THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 28 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 29 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 bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

DECENT, SETTLED LIFE

GOOD THINGS, BUT WHAT A MESSAGE! WHAT CONFUSION, WHAT WEIGHT!

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

HOW WILL THIS BE?

YOU'VE PROMISED GOOD, BUT I HAVE QUESTIONS

MARY DOESN'T HAVE HER ANSWERS,

BUT SHE HAS HER SERVANTHOOD.

AND A PROPER VIEW OF GOD.

Proverbs 3:5-8 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

MARY HAD QUESTIONS, DOUBTS

A GOOD + TIMELY WORD WAS HEARD

Hebrews 3:12-14 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

① I AM SEEN + BLESSED

EVEN IN ALL OF THIS?

③ I AM FORTUNATE

PSALM 138:1-14

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO FEAR HIM + WALK IN OBEDIENCE

THIS IS REASON FOR PRAISE BUT SOMETIMES TAKES A WHILE

Psalm 33:18 - Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love...