

CHRISTMAS EVE 2019 - Luke 1:26-38

Christmas is indeed a message of “everlasting” *hope, love, joy and peace*; but it *also* reminds us, God is God of the “impossible!” He chooses the ordinary to perform the extraordinary. In the Christmas story and throughout scripture we see examples of this truth, again and again.

The angel Gabriel appears to a young unsuspecting “virgin” in Nazareth, betrothed (engaged) to be married, and calls her “highly favored” and “blessed!” **Highly favored** – to make graceful, charming, lovely, agreeable. Every woman wants to be thought about in this manner! Mary must have thought, “*Who me?*” (v.29). This type of greeting is reserved for the likes of ***Beyonce, Kardashians, Marilyn Monroe, and celebrated female Hollywood celebrities!*** Gideon – Judges 6 – “*mighty man of valor!*” God’s opinion of us is far higher than that of ourselves!

In fact, what the world often *celebrates* is an “abomination” to the Lord! **Jesus said: (Luke 16:15)**
You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination

in the sight of God. Because mankind judges by the outward appearance, but God judges according to the heart! **(1 Samuel 16:7).**

Notice: When God chooses the “ordinary” to perform the extraordinary, His “favor” *cancels out all* “fear!” Fear is eradicated by the power of God’s choice! **Christ was born as a manifestation of God’s loving choice, *desire for us.* (1 John 4:9) In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.**

In (v.31-33) the “extraordinary” is revealed! The prophet Isaiah declared: of this Child, the “government” - rule, dominion – of God’s Kingdom, *the church*, will “rest” upon His shoulders! (Matthew 16:18) “...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (ttt) **Isaiah 9:6, 7.**

Here we find “five” characteristics regarding this “extraordinary” “Child,” *the promised Savior of the world!* He will be called: (1) **(Wonderful) a “wonder worker!” “Able to do above and beyond what we ask or think!” **Ephesians 3:20** – he will be called; (2) **(Counselor)** – *our “advisor,”* **2 Kings****

1; king Ahaziah Baal-Zebub: pagan Canaanite god - “*Lord of the flies*” – deadly counsel) “*Is it because there is God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub the god of Ekron?*” **(Psalm 51:6) Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.**

(3) this Child will be called: “**Mighty God**” (Isaiah 46:11b) “*Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.*”

We serve a God who not only **promises** but **performs!** **(2 Corinthians 1:20) For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.** This

“Child” will be called: (4) “**Everlasting Father**” – *This Child will be “**One**” with “Father God!”* Through faith in Him *alone*, we can experience eternal love and acceptance, of our “heavenly Father!”

For those who experienced the loss of a loved, or divorce, or who wrestle with loneliness; Christmas reminds us, Jesus was born to avail to us the “everlasting comfort of God!” **(2 Corinthians 1:3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of**

all comfort. *“When my father and mother forsake me the Lord will take care of me.”* **Psalm 27:10.**

Lastly, *this “Child” will be called: (5) “Prince of Peace”* – literally: *ruler, governor, keeper of our “Peace!”* In His “peace” we have “victory” over the enemy of our soul! *“And the God of peace will crush satan under your feet shortly.”* **Romans 16:20.**

Mary was “blown away” that something so “glorious” could come from her body (life)!
Read: (v.34-37). (Isaiah 9:7b) “...The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” The “zeal” – *qinah* – **jealous disposition (of a husband); ardour: enthusiasm, compassion.** In (Deuteronomy 5:9), God declared: *“I am a jealous God!”* When the devil tries to “seduce” followers of Christ; *God rises to the occasion, to defend and protect His bride!* As believers, the reason we often find ourselves in trouble many times, is because we are having an “illicit spiritual affair” with the world (devil); we have forsaken our “first love! Yet, the “zeal” (jealousy) of the Lord relentlessly, and jealously draws us back to Himself!

Thus, the “miracle” performed through this “ordinary” teenager (15-16 years old), would come to pass; not according to Mary’s understanding, or ability, but by the “power (zeal) of the “Holy Spirit!” **Read: v.37.**

“Salvation” was an impossibility until God made it “possible!” Ephesians 2:1-3 tells us “*by nature we were all children of wrath*”; hopelessly separated from God, because we had all sinned against God! **But God made a way where there was “no way!” (Ephesians 2:4-5) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).**

CONCLUSION: To the ordinary, those facing the impossible; **Christmas gives testament to the fact, God uses the “ordinary” to *perform* the “extraordinary”; and, that the *impossible* is now “possible,” through faith in Christ! John 3:16.**