

The Annunciation to Mary

I. Introduction

A. Advent Generosity: Worship Fully—Spend Less—Give More—Love All

1. 4 Years ago we raised over \$5,000 for dental equipment for a ministry in Nepal. This week that equipment was delivered to by Randall Gleason, and we have a brief video to show you of its reception.
2. This year we will have set a goal of \$5,000 for partner with Pacific Bible College, to share about this opportunity and what these funds will be going toward we have Mike Robinson with us, the President of Pacific Bible College.

II. The Annunciation to Mary (Notice Four Things)

A. The Unlikely Recipient

1. Mary
 - a) Young—somewhere between 12-15
 - b) From area of Galilee—looked down upon by the religious elite in Jerusalem...considered by many Jews to have sold out to the world...If you would be rich you go to Galilee. If you would be wise, go to Jerusalem.
 - c) Nazareth: considered the least spiritual town in Galilee...It was a Roman Garrison town...a more unspiritual place could not be imagined...utterly disdained by the religious elite.
 - d) Engaged to be married—Mary had been pledged to Joseph sometime in the previous year. A Jewish betrothal period involved two steps: the formal engagement including a contract and exchange of a bridal price, and then about a year later a wedding...the marriage was legally binding but intercourse was not permitted until after the marriage. Only divorce or death could sever the betrothal; and in the latter event the girl, though unmarried, would be considered a widow.
 - e) She is young and has no franchise in this age.
2. Side Note—Joseph's story is just as intense, unlikely, and disruptive.
 - a) Matthew 1:18-25

B. The Unnerving Nature

1. The cultural sentimentality surrounding Christmas is in stark contrast to the actual account. “And yet when I turn to the gospel accounts of the first Christmas I hear a very different tone and sense mainly disruption at work... In contrast to what the cards would have us believe, Christmas did not sentimentally simplify life on planet earth.”¹
2. “But she was greatly troubled at the saying...” —God’s visitations unnerve us —and. ³⁰ “...tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be...” (wonder) —“The Greek word means ‘to make an audit.’ It’s an accounting word, and it means to be adding things up, weighing and pondering, to be intensely rational.”²
3. “...And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid...”

C. The Unimaginable Message

1. God in the flesh—Fully God, Fully Man...Two complete natures in one person...He is not like anyone else...If we’re not shocked by this—there is a problem.
2. His name will be Jesus
 - a) Jesus...common Jewish name meaning “YHWH is salvation”
3. He will be called the Son of the Most High (cf. v. 76).
 - a) Mary could not have missed the significance of that terminology. The fact that her Baby was to be called the "Son of the Most High" pointed to His equality with Yahweh. The term “son of” means “the same as” In Semitic thought a son was a "carbon copy" of his father, and the phrase "son of" was often used to refer to one who possessed his "father's" qualities.
4. He will be given the throne of His father David—the fulfiller of the Davidic Covenant.

¹ Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Pub. House, 1995), 30.

² Timothy Keller, *Hidden Christmas : The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* (New York: Viking, 2016), 81.

- a) Jesus, as David's descendant, will sit on David's throne when He reigns in the Millennium (2 Sam 7:16; Ps 89:3-4,28-29).
- b) He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. Jesus' reign over the nation Israel as her King will begin in the Millennium and continue on into the eternal state.
- c) His kingdom will never end.
 - (1) These promises must have immediately reminded Mary of the promise of Yahweh to David (2 Sam 7:13-16). David understood the prophecy as referring not only to his immediate son (Solomon) who would build the temple, but also to the future Son who would rule forever. Everlasting King...Everlasting Kingdom.

D. The Unparalleled Miracle

- 1. He will be conceived without human initiative (vv. 31, 35), the only other thing like this is creation itself—out of nothing. This will be a divine conception (more so than a virgin birth)...this is not impossible if there is a God.
 - a) “How often we want to explain what we cannot figure out. But nothing that brings ultimate meaning to our lives is explainable. Such things are always beyond the safe, settled reach of the predictable.”³
- 2. Mary did not assume she would have a baby after she was married...she realized the angel was talking about a miraculous conception...this is a serious conversation.
- 3. The answer given is sufficient for her.

III. Closing Thoughts

A. Notice how Mary responded—Read the Magnificent.

- 1. Mary's response reveals her character—Simple and profound faith.
- 2. Notice her willingness to trust God at great expense to herself.
- 3. These evening at our Reflection Service from 5-7 you will have an opportunity to meditate on Mary and her response to the Annunciation.

³ Calvin Miller, *The Christ of Christmas : Readings for Advent : 31 Days of Devotions*, 1 vols. (Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman & Holman, 2002).

Bibliography

Keller, Timothy. *Hidden Christmas : The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*. New York: Viking, 2016.

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