

- In the OT, songs are recorded from people who've experienced God's presence in powerful ways: deliverance and redemption and answered prayer ... These songs are no less important than the narrative that surrounds them ... They speak of God's sovereign ability and faithfulness towards mankind, and they speak of man's response to God ... It's through similar songs that Luke details the birth of Christ ... Each song – whether spoken or sung, relies on the others to tell the complete story ... Through them are questions answered and promises fulfilled concerning the arrival of God's Messiah ... With Gabriel's song I want us to see the **how** and **when** of the Messiah's arrival
- For those in our passage, the **when** is more pressing than **how** ... The Jewish people were exhausted from being controlled by worldly powers ... They were beyond ready for arrival of God's Messiah, who would overthrow their oppressors and reestablish God's kingdom in Judah ... There had been self-proclaimed messiah's before, but they proved to be false ... Their main accomplishment was that of stirring doubt and questions within people
- This time is different because it's God who makes the first move ... It's God who breaks the silence and steps out of the shadows to reveal what's about to happen – 1:26 (19) ... First, He begins with a familiar situation – older couple past the years of childbearing ... Zechariah has no reason to doubt God, even considering the context ... Gabriel's message to Mary, there's no precedent ... Mary: engaged to Josph, both late teens, from an insignificant town
  - Gabriel speaks of fulfillment: 1) **Is7:14 – 1:31 (Mt1:21-23)** ... 2) **2Sm7:12-16 – 1:32-33** (*Genealogy*) ... 3) **Is9:6-7, Dn7:14** ... 4) Jesus – salvation of Yahweh; Yeshua / Joshua
  - **Vs34-37 – how and when** answered ... The words imply immediacy ... Mary's visit to Elizabeth confirms the pregnancy – **this** is the reason for Mary's song ... After 9-months the Messiah will be born ... It will be God's own doing ... The Messiah will be the Son of God ... Nature of Jesus will be both divine and human – Divinity taking on humanity ... **WATSON: IN CREATION MAN IS MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE; IN THE INCARNATION GOD TAKES ON MAN'S IMAGE** (*other Virgin conception passages Mt1:16,18,20,25*)
  - **"He will be ..."** wording – don't read passages as if Jesus will grow into these things ... Instead, we'll know Him as these things because this is who He is ... **CALVIN: HE WHO HAD BEEN THE SON OF GOD FROM ETERNITY WILL BE MANIFESTED AS SUCH IN THE FLESH IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT KNOW HIM TO BE THE PERSON WHO HAD BEEN FORMERLY PROMISED**
- Is God slow at bringing about His promises and His answers to our prayers, or is He right on time ... Depends on who's timetable we're relying on ... For Mary and Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, it's an inconvenient time ... But it's also the correct time – **Gl4:4** ... In our own life we struggle with this ... But of this we must keep at the forefront: His first arrival guarantees His second; fulfillment of one promise guarantees fulfillment of all ... The promises made then continue to be promises for today as we find them in Jesus Himself
- God's quietly at work bringing forth His Messiah to redeem people for Himself – people who are anxiously awaiting redemption, and people who aren't aware of their need for redemption ... The grand announcement of Gabriel goes no further than here – for the time being at least ... God's asking Mary, along with Zechariah and Elizabeth, to trust Him ... They've no reason not to trust God, even though doing so seems overwhelming ... Their present faith must rest upon God's previous faithfulness ... What is our faith resting upon