



Lesson 209

Gabriel Announces the Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Story Elements

- **Text:** Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-25
- **Setting:** circa 6 BC in Nazareth and the hill country of Judea
- **Main Characters:** God, Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth and Joseph
- **Plot:** The angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus the Messiah to Mary and Joseph.
- **Key word(s):** “_____” (vv 28, 42, 45, 48) This word, repeated four times throughout the narrative, emphasize God’s blessing through the promised Messiah.
- **Climax:** **Luke 1:34** *Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?* Here we see, not only Mary’s curiosity and wonder, but her testimony of chastity

and faithfulness to her God. The angel’s eloquent answer to Mary’s honest question is as simply worded as it is beautifully stated – these few words are sufficient to describe how our Savior came to us from a virgin’s womb.

Gabriel Visits Mary

1. (Luke 1:26-33) In the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist, Gabriel was sent by God to visit Mary, a woman of Nazareth espoused to a carpenter named Joseph.
 - (a) He greets Mary thusly:
 - i. *Hail* – a word that means exuberant _____.
 - ii. *thou that art highly favored* – the term highly favored (from the Greek *charito*) appears in only one other place in the Bible: **Ephesians 1:6** *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us _____ in the beloved.*
 - iii. the *Lord is with thee* – this same phrase was spoken to _____ by an angel (Jud. 6:12) the purpose of which is to embolden and encourage to great service to God, no matter how seemingly impossible.
 - iv. *Blessed are thou among women* – that is, because of her unique calling, she is the happiest woman of all.

APPLICATION ➔ Mary’s shock at the angel’s message is indicative of her _____. Matthew Henry explains: “Had she been a proud ambitious young woman, that... flattered herself with the expectation of great things in the world, she would have been *pleased* at his saying, would have been puffed up with it, ...but, instead of that, she is *confounded* at it, as not conscious to herself of any thing that either *merited* or *promised* such great things.”¹

- (b) He told Mary that she would give birth to a son and that...
 - i. ...his name would be _____ (from the Hebrew *Yehoshua*, meaning “the LORD is salvation”)
 - ii. ...he would be called the _____ of the Most High
 - iii. ...he would sit on the throne of _____ and will reign over Israel forever in an eternal kingdom. The angel’s words are echoes of Isaiah’s prophecy:

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, Upon the throne of David, and upon his*

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1823.

kingdom, To order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice From henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

2. (Luke 1:34-37) Of course, Mary was shocked and wondered how such a thing was possible since she was a virgin. Gabriel explained that her child would not be conceived by man but by God – that her son would quite literally be the Son of God.
 - (a) Gabriel also told Mary of her cousin Elisabeth's pregnancy, adding, *For with God nothing shall be impossible*.
 - (b) (Luke 1:38) Mary's response to Gabriel's news was, *Behold the _____ of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word*.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

3. (Luke 1:39-43) Mary went to visit her cousin Elisabeth, and as she entered her house, the infant John leaped for joy within her womb. Elisabeth was immediately filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed, *Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my _____ should come to me?*

APPLICATION ➔ Elisabeth's greeting to Mary shows the _____ power of the Holy Ghost. Filled with the Spirit, Elisabeth called Mary the “mother of my Lord.” Elisabeth understood the significance of the child Mary carried.

4. (Luke 1:46-55) Mary responded with a song of praise. Called the *Magnificat* (Latin for “[my soul] magnifies”).
 - (a) Mary's song is filled with references to Hannah's prayer in 1 Sam. 1:11 and 2:1-10 and many other Old Testament passages.
 - (b) The *Magnificat* shows how Mary had saturated her mind with God's Word and how she understood her child to be the fulfillment of God's covenant to _____.
5. (Luke 1:56) Mary stayed with Elisabeth for _____ months, implying that she stayed until the birth of John the Baptist. After which, she would have returned to Nazareth – and to Joseph, her betrothed, whose doubts would need divine intervention.

An Angel Visits Joseph

6. (Matthew 1:18-24), Joseph, upon realizing the his espoused wife was with child, considered breaking the engagement.
 - (a) But in a dream, an angel explained to Joseph that the child Mary carried was the Messiah, the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit.
 - (b) Matthew, the writer of the passage, explained that all this was in fulfillment of the prophecy in *Isaiah 7:14, Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name _____*.
 - (c) When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Answer Key: Key word(s): “Blessed” • 1) a) i. greetings; ii. accepted; iii. Gideon; ➔ humility • b) i. Jesus; ii. Son; iii. David • 2) a) impossible; b) handmaid • 3) Lord ➔ illuminating • 4) b) Abraham • 5) three • 6) b) Immanuel