

## LUKE Lesson 2

### The Angel Gabriel's Visit to Mary: Chapter 1:26-48

15 June 2018

Mary is often disregarded and even disrespected by Protestant Christians because of the undue exalting of her by churches who answer to the pope. This morning we will see what God has to say about Mary and give honor where honor is due (Romans 13:7).

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**VS 26** Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth in Elisabeth's 6<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy. Jesus would grow up in this town of Nazareth. That doesn't make Him a "Nazarite" (Numbers 6). It makes Him a "Nazarene" (Matthew 2:23).

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**VS 27** Very accurate historical facts are presented concerning Mary's location and personal circumstances. She was "espoused" (promised in marriage) to Joseph.

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**VS 28** According to the Bible, Mary is highly favored, the Lord is with her, and she is blessed among women. Some religious people have perverted those facts and elevated her to the position as God's mediatrix, but that doesn't mean that we ought to disregard what God said about her.

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**29-33** The angel told Mary that Jesus was the one who would sit on "**the throne of his father David.**" That is what all the Old Testament believers were looking forward to. None of them were "*looking forward to the cross.*" They were looking for the Messiah to regain physical dominion of planet earth by setting up an eternal kingdom (Exod. 15:18, Psalm 146:10, Micah 4:7, Rev 11:15, 22:5).

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**VS 34** Mary's response: "Tell me how it's going to happen." She didn't object or offer any suggestions or complaints. She just wanted to know what to expect. We could learn something from her.

**VS 35** Here's the answer to "**how shall this thing be.**" How can we do anything for the Lord? You must rely upon the Holy Ghost.

What is "**that holy thing**" that was born of Mary? It was the body that God would dwell in. Mary was not the "Mother of God." She was the human vessel that God used to prepare a body for the Son of God (Hebrews 10:5).

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**36-37** Mary was informed by the angel that her "barren" and "aged" cousin Elisabeth is also with child and is presently in her 6<sup>th</sup> month. The impossible was made possible by God. In our limited thinking, it is impossible for a woman to conceive a child without a man. God made that possible.

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**VS 38** Mary's complete submission to God. "**Be it unto me according to thy word.**" God has told us what to do. Why don't we submit? Why do we make excuses and contend with the Lord? Why do we place our own reasoning and understanding above the clear commands of God in scripture? Mary was willing to suffer any amount of shame and disgrace to obey the Lord. She was happy to do it (1 Pet 4:14).

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**39-41** When Mary went to visit Elisabeth, John leaped in the womb and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. This reveals to us that a "fetus" is more than just a tissue mass. John was aware that something wonderful was happening and he reacted accordingly.

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**VS 42** When Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, she blessed Mary with a loud voice. It's not wrong to say a good word about Mary. It's not wrong to say a good word about your brothers and sisters in the Lord either.

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**43-45** Elisabeth knows that Mary's blessings came from her faith: "**Blessed is she that believed.**" Not only that, but her faith was "effectual" (1 Thess 2:13). When you believe what God says and you live according to what God says, it will make a difference in your life; "**there shall be a performance of those things**" that God told you. Unbelief hinders what God wants to do with your life.

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**46-48** Mary exalted the Lord. She rejoiced in God "**my Saviour.**" Only a sinner needs a Savior. She called herself God's "handmaiden." That's a female slave. That's her own testimony. She never claimed to be the "Queen of Heaven" or the "Mother of God." She counted herself a bond-slave to Jesus Christ.

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Mary truly was blessed. She experienced and observed things that we can only read about today. But the thing that made Mary greatly blessed—was her great faith. She believed God.