



**"Mary: Chosen by God"**

**Luke 1:26-30**

May 16, 2021

**"Perfect Storm"**

Political Establishment

Herod the Great  
"King of the Jews"

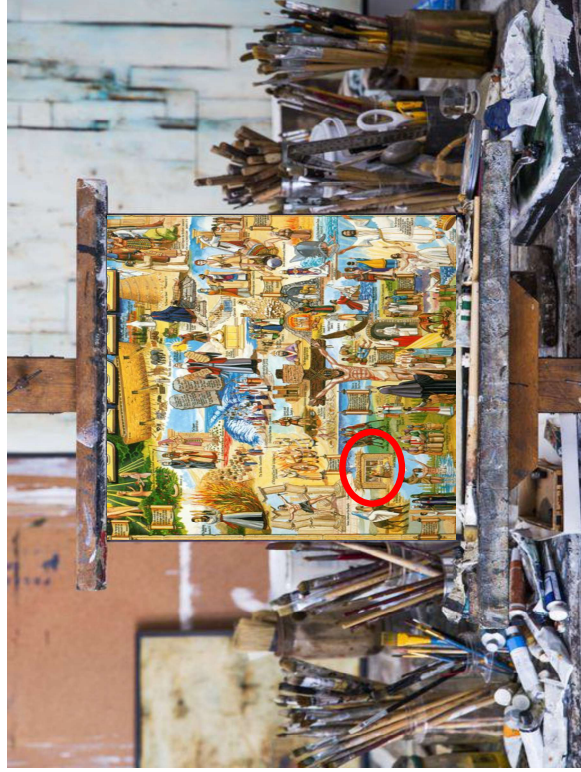
Religious Establishment

Pharisees  
Sadducees  
Sanhedrin  
Essenes  
Scribes

Jesus Christ

King of the Jews

No works righteousness  
No hypocrisy  
No legalism  
No pride  
No hierarchy, no robes,  
no titles.



"God is behind the scenes  
and  
controls the scenes He is behind!"

**Luke 1:26-30**

**26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,**

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

**26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,**

- **“Sixth month”** refers to Elizabeth’s pregnancy.
- **“Gabriel”** – the “angel of announcements.”
- **“Nazareth”** –
  - obscure village.
  - So obscure that Galilee is a reference to the region.
  - It was so obscure that Nathaniel asked “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”
  - Not even mentioned in the OT.
  - About 400 population in 1<sup>st</sup> century.
  - Liberals theologians say it never existed in 1<sup>st</sup> century and didn’t exist until much later.
  - Archeology has proven it did exist. Archeologists have found a list in Aramaic describing the twenty-four divisions or families, of priests who were relocated, and one of them was registered as having moved to Nazareth. Also there are archaeological digs that have uncovered first-century tombs in the vicinity of Nazareth.
  - There is some evidence that the inhabitants of Nazareth were descendants of the house of David.

• Isn’t it just like God to choose a poor girl from a despised town to raise the Greatest Man in one of the least esteemed towns in Israel.



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- Note: Gabriel comes to the woman – Gen 3:15

15 And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her seed;

He shall bruise you on the head,

And you shall bruise him on the heel."

“**virgin**” – **παρθενος** 1. never refers to a married woman. 2. Never refers to a woman who has already had sexual relations with a man. It therefore, refers to a virgin in its purest sense. 3. It can refer to young girl - context will determine meaning. 4. Teenager, after puberty.

**Isa 7:14**

14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

**παρθενος** - has several meanings depending on the context –

1. young woman of marriageable age (Ge 24:43). Always a virgin.
2. maiden (Pr. 30:19);
3. girl (Ex 2:8);
4. virgin (Is. 7:14)

**Matt 1:23**

23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,"

**27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.**

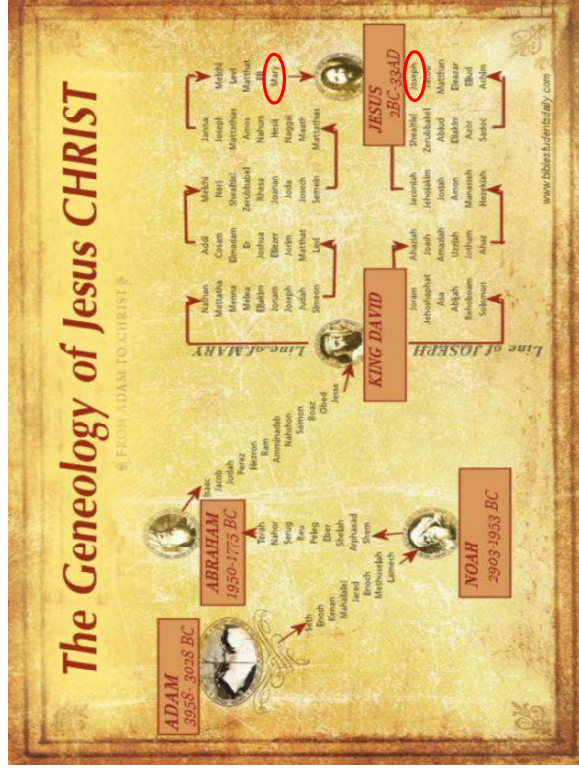
- Why did Gabriel come to a virgin?

1. Because the sin nature is transmitted through the earthly father through Adam's seed, not by the mother through Eve. Adam was the representative of the race and was responsible for the Fall. If Jesus had been born of a man, he would have inherited a sin nature. If Jesus was to come as God in the flesh, He would have to come through the womb of a virgin. This was the only way that Jesus could be born in flesh without possessing the sinful nature that all men are born with. By sending Jesus into this world through the womb of a virgin, God was able to give His Son a human body and a human nature, without His inheriting a fallen nature as well. This enabled Jesus to be born without sin; live without sin and die without sin.

Without a virgin birth, we do not have a Savior.

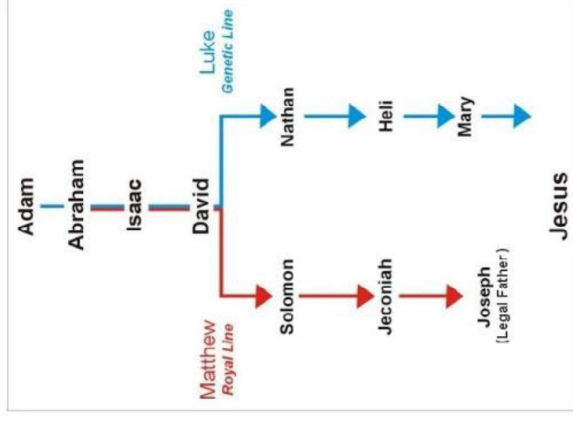
2. By being adopted (a legal transaction) by Joseph, Jesus obtained the legal rights to David's throne.

- Joseph brought the **royal line** which guaranteed the right to David's throne.
- Mary brought the **genetic line** which guaranteed the right be a man.
- Note here that Luke points out Joseph is a descendant of David.

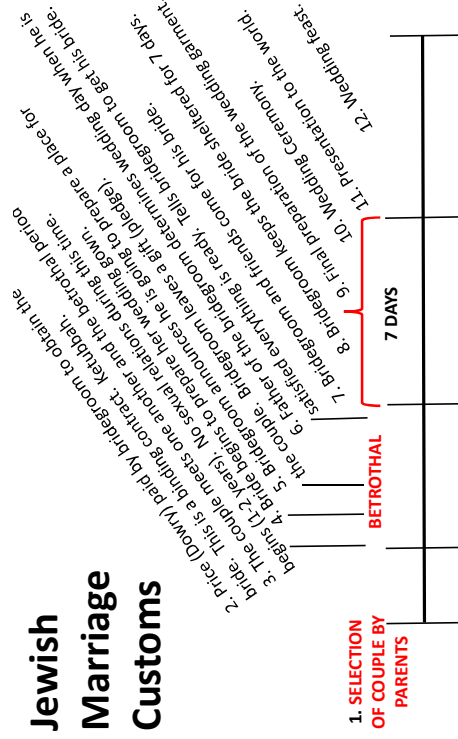


**27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.**

- **“engaged”** - better word is betrothed. This is more than an engagement that can be broken. A betrothal can only be broken by death or divorce.



**Jewish Marriage Customs**



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- Note: Nothing is said about Mary. Nothing about her character, her life . . . nothing. Luke is avoiding any adoration of Mary.

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- Noah of old "found favor in the eyes of the LORD." (Ge 6:8, Ex 33:13, Pr. 3:3, 4)
- Joseph found favor because of the hand of the Lord on him (Ge 39:3, 4). Luke records that
- David found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. (Acts 7:46)

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- Mary was probably baking or cleaning or whatever when Gabriel comes into the house.
- "Greetings" – χαίρειν – to be joyful, to give a cheerful greeting, to extend grace in your greeting; a wish for well-being or happiness to the recipient. Not "hail" as the KJV has it.

## Luke 1:28

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

KJV

"favored one" – χαριτωθη – to grace someone, to highly favor someone, to give special honor, to be selected to receive grace.

- Mary is not graced or favored because of what is in Mary. This is just plain old ordinary teenage Mary. All sinners receive grace at salvation. All believers are like Mary.
- Mary is receiving grace for what is coming.
- Mary is not "full of grace" and does not have the capacity to give out that grace to others. That is not what the text says.
- God's grace is always given to the undeserving, which is every sinner.
- It is never given because of something within a person that merits it.
- "The Lord is with you" – this will be important for what is ahead. She will need the Lord and His strength for the task at hand. "God will give you His help for the task He has called you to do"

**29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.**

"perplexed" - διαταρασσω – troubled, confused, alarmed.  
"pondered" - διαλογιζομαι – to reason, to think, to try to figure it out.

- Mary:

"What is this all about?"

"What could it mean?"

"Why have I found favor?"

"If the Lord is with me, what is he going to do with me?"

- Mary's mind must have been racing 100 mph.
- Remember, she might be a 15 or 16 year old.

"God is in  
100% control,  
100% of the time,  
even when our life seems  
100% out of control!"

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- Gabriel comforts Mary. He could see she was alarmed.
- Mary was no doubt alarmed by Gabriel's appearance but also his message.
- Again Gabriel assures Mary that it is God who has done the choosing, and Mary is simply the recipient of God's grace.
- "Mary, this is a good thing."
- This is a great picture of how we were saved – by God's sovereign choosing of us which was solely because of His grace.
- Are you thankful for His choosing you?

"Things don't just happen to those who love God,  
They're planned by His own dear hand,  
Then molded and shaped, and timed by His clock;  
Things don't just happen--they're planned."

- Esther Fields