

## “Overshadowed”

### Luke 1:31-38

May 23, 2021

### 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.

### Luke 1:31-38

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;  
 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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5 things Gabriel reveals to Mary:

1. **You will have a virgin birth.**
  - At conception, the second Person of the Trinity will add to His divine nature a human nature, thus becoming the biological descendant of Adam, Abraham and David. He will not diminish His deity but will He be true humanity. 100% God and 100% man.

2. **You will have a son and shall name Him Jesus.**

- "Jesus" — Ἰησοῦς — Joshua, "Yeshua saves."
- Only five other children had been named before their births in Old Testament times: Isaac; Ishmael; Moses; Song of Solomon, and Josiah.

### Acts 4:12

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

- **Note:** How people will respond to this child and His message and ministry will determine their eternal destiny.

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 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

3. **He will be great.**

- One of God's names in the OT is the Name El Elyon: Most High God - Sovereign Over All.

4. **He will be God.**

- By calling Jesus the "Son of the Most High," is a designation of equality. 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. This makes Jesus God. Mary (and all other Jewish people from her culture) knew what this meant: this child would be equal to God.

### John 5:18

18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

5. **He will fulfill the Davidic covenant.**

## 1 Chron 17:11-14

- 11 "When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up **one** of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.
  - 12 "He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.
  - 13 "I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.
  - 14 "But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever."
- 4 unconditional promises in the Davidic Covenant:**
1. God would give the descendant of David an eternal throne. (12)
  2. God would give David an eternal dynasty (a royal line). (11-12a)
  3. God would give David an eternal kingdom. (14a)
  4. God would give David an eternal descendant. (14)

## Isa 9:6

- 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;

## Luke 1:31-38

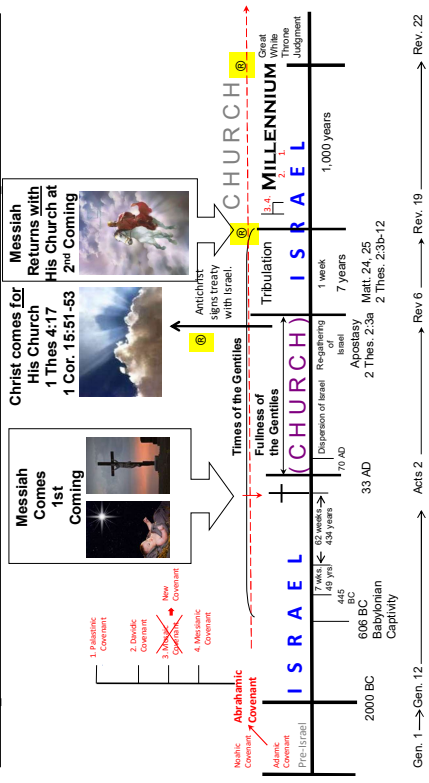
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- 34 **Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"**
- 35 **The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.**
- 36 **"And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.**
- 37 **"For nothing will be impossible with God."**
- 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

- This will all occur by the Holy Spirit, and by the power of God the Father.
- The angel actually predicted a virginal conception, rather than a virginal birth. The actual birth of Jesus was normal; not so His conception."

**"overshadow"** – ἐπισκιάζω – to cast a shade upon, to envelope, to totally supersede the situation.

## Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



☪ = Resurrection

## 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

- Mary is thinking this through.
  - "How in the world is this going to take place?"
1. I am betrothed to a man.
  2. We cannot have sexual relations during the betrothal.
  3. It would be immoral and adultery to have sexual relation with another man.
  4. If we wait until after we are married, then the child is going to be just your average human child.
  5. The concept of a pregnant virgin was utterly inconceivable to her; an impossibility, a contradiction in terms like a married bachelor, or a square circle.

**Note:** Zacharias wanted a sign. Mary did not. She did not doubt – only wanted to know, "How is this going to happen."

## Matt 17:5

- 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

## Mark 9:7

- 7 Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!"

## Luke 9:34

- 34 While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

## Acts 5:15

- 15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

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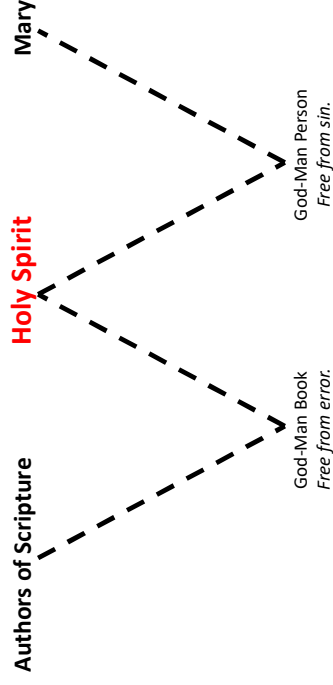
- *God has 4 ways to make a body:*
  1. Out of clay – As he did Adam.
  2. Out of man – As with Eve.
  3. Out of woman married to man – As in every normal human birth.
  4. Out of woman without man – As with the birth of Christ
- The entire Trinity is found in this miraculous act.
- This will be needed to produce a child:
  1. That will be impregnated miraculously from an "alien" source.
  2. Who will be free from sin from either parent. No sin nature was passed down to Jesus.
- The product will be a God-Man, human yet free from sin.

**36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month."**

- We need to stop a moment and think of what a wonderful, loving, caring act God is doing in verse 36.
- He is comforting and encouraging Mary by sharing that a relative of hers is also miraculously having a baby.
- **"relative"** – general term. Could mean:
  - Distant relative.
  - Elizabeth was Mary's aunt.
  - Cousins.
  - It is really too hard to pin it down without knowing the specifics on both sides.
  - Cousins is probably our best guess, and not distant but fairly close for Mary to travel 80 miles and stay 3 months.

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**37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."**

- What a great statement for Mary to claim and for all believers as well.
- If it is God's will, it will happen.
- If you believe in Creation and salvation everything else is the "small stuff."
- As I've said before, "Don't sweat the small stuff. Everything is the small stuff."

**38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.**

- Great response:
- **"Behold"** - "look", "take notice".
- **"maidservant"** The maidservant was one who put themselves in the service of another. It was a willing service. Mary was saying she was willing to serve in this role.
- Mary is saying, "Here I am. Willing to do what you ask." She was absolutely surrendered and totally devoted to her Lord.
- Where does she gain such great faith? By believing in God's Word. God supernaturally gave Mary the faith to believe.
- Remember, she is a teenager. Not 70 or 80 like Zacharias.

- But this would be difficult and complicated.

- Consider this -

1. Small town living. She would have to live with the perceived shame and misunderstanding of her premarital pregnancy.
2. How do you explain this to your mother and relatives and Joseph's relatives?
3. Interruption plans to marry Joseph.
4. How is she going to explain this to Joseph, whom she loved dearly?
5. A betrothed woman who was found pregnant would be subject to execution by stoning (adultery).
6. Everywhere she traveled she would be considered an immoral woman.

Yet through it all, here is a heart eager to surrender to God's will regardless of the cost.

A life of significance is most often  
preceded by a heart  
eager to surrender to God's will  
regardless of the cost.