

The Birth of a Savior – Luke

Luke 1:26-35

“The birth of Jesus foretold” – December 3, 2017



Introduction

C.H. Spurgeon once said, ‘*Difficulty* is not a word to be found in the dictionary of heaven. Nothing can be impossible with God.’ In the pages of Scripture, God is a miracle-worker; and He *still* is the God who does miracles ([John 14:12](#), [Matthew 19:26](#)). The difficulty is that as we wait on God and ask Him for something over a period of time, we can lose heart, grow cynical, and doubt that God cares for us or that He is faithful. So, what do we do when we face circumstances in life that seem impossible? Luke 1 is the dawn of hope, a new chapter for the people of God after a long period of darkness we read about in the Old Testament. They’d come to realize from experience they couldn’t change themselves and needed help. Thankfully, God had promised a Savior, a Messiah, who would do just that ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)). In Luke 1, the wait is over, and we learn important truths about who God is *and* how we should respond.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. Rejoice! The King has come
- II. Surrender in humble obedience

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Luke 1:26-38](#)

A thousand years *before* Jesus, God had chosen David to be Israel’s king and made a covenant with him to raise up a forever-King from his family ([2 Samuel 7:12-14](#)). When Gabriel announces Jesus’ arrival it is clear He is the fulfillment of that promise! He will receive the ‘throne of His father David’ and ‘reign over the house of Jacob forever.’ What does God’s fulfillment of His promise teach us about His character? It can be hard to wait, and we won’t always know *why* or *how long*, but what can we know about God’s timing and purpose for waiting that helps us?

Jesus is not just the King of Israel, He is introduced as the King of *all* humanity. The language the angel uses to describe the miraculous conception mirrors the language of creation in Genesis 1. The point is not that Jesus is created as if He has a beginning, the point is the ‘*power of the Most High*.’ By the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Spirit is powerfully bringing about the incarnation – the *eternal* Son of God coming into time and space; Jesus, fully God *and* fully man; Jesus like us, yet without sin. All this was necessary, the virgin birth is necessary, because just as the 1st Adam represented humanity and

failed, God is introducing Jesus as the 2nd Adam. Through the 1st Adam came sin and death; through the 2nd Adam comes righteousness, justification and life. Knowing God is able to do this for His people and that He *has* done this, what do we learn about His character?

It's one thing to know the truths about God and the incarnation, but how do we respond? Mary models for us *how* we should respond in [v38](#). The thing to notice is that her experience of God's grace (the text uses the word 'favor' in v30, but it's essentially the same word) comes *before* her response. Knowing God's presence to help her (v28), the testimony of God's power in Elizabeth's life (v36), and God's grace (v30), the fear and troubled spirit she had vanished. Knowing God's grace set her free to surrender to God in humble obedience, to say to God, *do with my life whatever you please*. Are you able to give God this blank check of trust? How has the knowledge of God's grace helped you to trust and surrender this way? How can we share our Elizabeth-like testimonies to others to encourage them with God's grace?

Additional reading: 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 5:12-21; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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