

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Understanding the 5 W's of God Becoming Human



Part 3

Understanding Who God
Chose to Glorify His
KINGDOM

Luke 1:26

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

Luke 1:27

**to a virgin named Mary. She was
engaged to be married to a man
named Joseph, a descendant
of King David.**

Luke 1:28

**Gabriel appeared to her and said,
“Greetings, favored woman!
The Lord is with you!”**

Luke 1:29

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

Luke 1:30

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God!”

Luke 1:31

**You will conceive and give birth to
a son, and you will name him Jesus.**

Luke 1:32

**He will be very great and will be
called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the
throne of his ancestor David.**

Luke 1:33

**And he will reign over Israel forever;
his Kingdom will never end!”**

Luke 1:34

Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

Luke 1:35

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:36

What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.

Luke 1:37

For the word of God will never fail.”

Luke 1:38

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Luke 1:39

**A few days later Mary hurried to the
hill country of Judea, to the town**

Luke 1:40

**where Zechariah lived. She entered
the house and greeted Elizabeth.**

Luke 1:41

**At the sound of Mary's greeting,
Elizabeth's child leaped within her,
and Elizabeth was filled
with the Holy Spirit.**

Luke 1:42

**Elizabeth gave a glad cry and
exclaimed to Mary, “God has
blessed you above all women,
and your child is blessed.**

Luke 1:43

Why am I so honored, that the
mother of my Lord should visit me?

Luke 1:44

**When I heard your greeting, the
baby in my womb jumped for joy.**

Luke 1:45

You are blessed because you
believed that the Lord would do
what he said.”

Luke 1:56

**Mary stayed with Elizabeth about
three months and then went back
to her own home.**

Matthew 1:18a

**This is how Jesus the Messiah was
born. His mother, Mary, was
engaged to be married to Joseph.**

Matthew 1:18b

**But before the marriage took place,
while she was still a virgin, she
became pregnant through the
power of the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 1:19

Joseph, to whom she was engaged,
was a righteous man and did not
want to disgrace her publicly,
so he decided to break the
engagement quietly.

Matthew 1:20a

As he considered this, an angel
of the Lord appeared to him
in a dream.

Matthew 1:20b

“Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:21

**And she will have a son, and you are
to name him Jesus, for he will save
his people from their sins.”**

Matthew 1:22

**All of this occurred to fulfill the
Lord's message through his prophet:**

Matthew 1:23

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

Matthew 1:24

**When Joseph woke up, he did as the
angel of the Lord commanded and
took Mary as his wife.**

Matthew 1:25

**But he did not have sexual relations
with her until her son was born.
And Joseph named him Jesus.**

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Principle #1

The reality of who God is and the reality of who and what He values, all of which can be found in His Word, is usually upside down and backwards in comparison to what many of us believe, value, or think.

**What Should Being
Blessed and Highly
Favored by God Look
Like to You?**

Blessed and Highly Favored?

- Joseph
- Moses
- David
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Jesus

Zechariah and Elizabeth

- **Barren and very old (v.7).**
- **Unanswered prayer for decades (v.13)**
- **Ridiculed and shamed as a result of not having a child (v.25).**
- **Zechariah was muted for his unbelief (v.20).**

Other Side of the Coin



Zechariah and Elizabeth

- **Zechariah was a priest who served God throughout his lifetime in the temple (v.5, 8).**
- **They were both bloodline descendants of the priests of Israel (v.5).**

Zechariah and Elizabeth

- **They were declared righteous in God's eyes, and obeyed all of God's commandments (v.6).**
- **Zechariah met with an angel who gave him a personal message from God (v.11).**

Zechariah and Elizabeth

- **They were chosen to love and parent God's special messenger, John the Baptist (v.13-17).**
- **They received a miracle and played an integral part in God's story that we are still talking about today.**

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Principle #2

The arrival of God in the flesh on earth was designed to wreck and then correct our understanding of God and His upside down and backwards kingdom.

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Mary

- **A nobody from nowhere.**
- **A lowly servant girl (v.48).**
- **No credentials or resume.**
- **Chosen at the worst possible time considering the fact that she was already engaged to Joseph (v.27).**

Mary

- She was favored by God (v.28).
- She believes in God's promises (v.38)
- Her heart is full of praise (v.46-55)
- She delights in God's will regardless of the personal cost to her (v.36-56).

**More often than not, God's favor
rests on ordinary people with
ordinary lives who choose to
intentionally offer their lives as a
living sacrifice to God.**

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Principle #3

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, every one of our lives is a part of a much bigger story. They are a part of God's story.

Jesus' Genealogy

- **Unexpected**
- **Unappreciated**
- **Unworthy**
- **Unknown**
- **Unfaithful**

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Principle #4

**Genuine encounters with the Lord
are meant to intentionally
disrupt your life, your comfort,
what you believe, what you value,
and what you trust.**

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Why the Disruption?

- Your life is not about you.
- Refocuses our attention on God.
- Faith without sacrifice and obedience isn't real.
- Surrender is key to being a committed disciple, not knowledge

Faithfulness and obedience to the Lord means that God's Word must overrule your preferences, comfort, feelings, emotions, desires, and will.

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Principle #5

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, God's plan for your life will not come to pass without sacrifice, pain, suffering, and obedience.

Sacrificial Obedience

- **Mary's and Joseph's reputations are ruined (in their own time) because God blessed them with the privilege of being the parents of the Messiah.**

Sacrificial Obedience

- **Mary must live out the difficulties of being pregnant without the pleasure of getting pregnant.**
- **Joseph must live out the difficulties of being a husband and a father without the pleasure of either.**

Principle #5

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, God's plan for your life will not come to pass without sacrifice, pain, suffering, and obedience.

Principle #6

All of creation cries out in pain as it witnesses the differences between who we value, what we value, and how we do things versus who God values, what He values, and how He wants us to do things.

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Understanding the 5 W's of God's Descension to Earth

