**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 15 December 2021**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Luke 1:26-56**

**Luke 1:26-33** Gabriel Announces Christ Birth

 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

* The virgin birth was an important event because the incarnation pivots on the truth that Jesus was born of a virgin.
* The Gospel of Matthew and Luke state that Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived—**Read Matthew 1:23**

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

**Note:**

Hebrew Scholars sometimes dispute whether the Hebrew term in **Isaiah 7:14** really means *“virgin” or “Maiden”*

 "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the **virgin** shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

* The Hebrew word for *“Virgin”* is ***almah [al-maw’]*** which has a three-fold meaning: *“damsel, maid, virgin.”*

 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

* "Rejoice, highly favored one” Luke uses this term that refers to all believers. **Ephesians 1:3-6** says

 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**

 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

 6 **to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved**.

* It’s by God’s grace that Mary [and all believers] is a recipient of God’s grace.
* It’s important to remember that Mary is not a dispenser of God’s Grace
* Many people pray to Mary as if she **dispenses** God’s grace. According to Scripture, **God distributes Grace**

**Psalms 84:11**

 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; **The LORD will give grace** and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

 **Ephesians 2:8-9**

 “**For by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

 **2 Corinthians 12:8-9**

 “8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

 9 And He said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you**, for My strength is made perfect in weakness…"

 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

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

 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

* Mary was frightened by this unusual greeting from the Angel Gabriel.
* The Angel repeated the same words to Mary as he did to Elizabeth… "Do not be afraid”
* The Angel declares to Mary three facts:
* 1) you will conceive in your womb—The Holy Spirit working within
* 2) and bring forth a Son—The external evidence or proof of the Holy

 Spirit’s work within

* 3) and shall call His name JESUS—The Lord God gives direction and

 assignment—His name is Jesus the

 Christ…

**Note:**

The name Jesus in Hebrew is *“Jeshua”* which means *“the Lord is Salvation”*

The Greek word for *“Christ”* is “Christos” which means *“anointed one”* or *“Messiah”*

 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

* “And will be called the Son of the Highest”—means Jesus is The Most High God
* In this culture, when a son bears his father’s qualities and sharing the same name signifies equality.
* “The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”—Jesus was King David’s descendent through Mary’s line.
* King David’s throne signifies the messianic kingdom—**Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16**

 12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

 14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

 16 "**And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."**

* The **Messianic Age** is the future period of time on Earth in which the Messiah will reign and bring universal peace and brotherhood

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

**Luke 1:34-38 Mary Miraculously Conceives**

 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

* Mary understood that the angel was speaking of an immediate conception
* However, she and Joseph were still engaged and could not consummate their relationship until after their marriage
* Therefore, Mary’s inquiry was not doubt nor disbelief—the angel didn’t not rebuke her as he did Zacharias

 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

* “The power of the Highest will overshadow you”—The overshadowing power of the Holy Spirit works in many ways:
* In time of trouble—**Psalms 57:1**

 “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You, And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.”

* To confirm our relationship with the Lord—**Isaiah 51:16**

 And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand,
That I may plant the heavens, Lay the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, ‘You *are* My people.’

 36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

* Mary’s relationship to Elizabeth confirms and makes her a direct descendant of King David

 37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

* God has the ability to:
* Fulfill promises—**Romans 4:21**

 “And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”

* Do exceedingly and abundantly—**Ephesians 3:20**

 “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”

 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

* Mary was a special woman because:
* She knew that this would be an extremely embarrassing and difficult position to be placed in
* As a result of being engaged to Joseph, she would have to face the stigma of unwed motherhood
* Joseph would obviously know that the child Mary is carrying is not his
* Mary knew she would be accused of adultery—an offence punishable by death (Deuteronomy 22)
* Yet, Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."
* Only the Holy Spirit of God could perform the *“Incarnation”* within the womb of Mary
* **Incarnation** is a term used by theologians to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh.
* The meaning of the word incarnation as stated in John’s Gospel—**John 1:13-14**

 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Luke 1:39-56 Mary Visits Elizabeth**

 39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah,

 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

 43 "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

 44 "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

 45 "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

* "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! —Elizabeth’s expression was not giving praise to Mary. She was praising the child Mary bore
* This was also an expression of Elizabeth’s faith and confidence that the child Mary was carrying was the long-awaited Messiah
* Elizabeth understood why her baby [John] leaped in her womb—they were both in the presence of the Son of God

**The Magnificat**

 The *Magnificat* is Latin for *“My soul magnifies the Lord”* In other words, it’s Mary’s response to Elizabeth’s blessing with what is now commonly called the Magnificat. Some Bibles will label this passage the *“Song of Mary,”* although the Bible does not report that she sang it.

 **Verses 46-55** is filled with Old Testament quotations. It also contains echoes of Hannah’s prays **(1 Samuel 1:11; 2:1-10)** The Magnificat contains numerous of the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and words from the Prophets. In fact, the entire passage is a point-by-point reciting of God’s covenant promises

 46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,

 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.

 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones And exalted the lowly.

 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.

 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy,

 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

 56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

**Home assignment for the next 3 weeks:**

**I. Why did Jesus become a man?**

1. According to Matthew 1:23, what was Jesus called when He was born?
2. What does the title “Immanuel” mean? Does it prove that Jesus was actually God in a body?
3. What other proofs that Jesus is God are found in the following passages of John’s Gospel
* John 1:1
* John 8:58
* John 10:25-39
1. What was Jesus’ purpose for coming to earth, according to

Luke 19:10?

**II. Why Joseph?**

1. What proof of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ are provided in

Matthew 1:18-25

1. What is the significance of the virgin birth of Jesus?

John 1:14-18

1. List the spiritual virtues observed in Joseph’s life from the following verses:
* Matthew 1:19
* Matthew 1:24
1. ***[For Men only]*** Following Joseph’s example, in what ways can you protect the dignity of your wife and honor her before others? 1 Peter 3:7
2. ***[For Men only]*** In following Joseph’s example of following God fully, what in your life is keeping you from saying to the Lord, “I’ll go anywhere, anytime, at any cost”?
3. Jesus’ virgin birth was a fulfillment of a promise made more than six hundred years before the birth of Christ. How do the following verses reveal that promise?
* Isaiah 7:14
* Isaiah 9:6-7
* Genesis 3:15
* Micah 5:2
1. What other promises does God give us to live by from the following passages?
* Acts 1:8
* Romans 8:28-29
* Hebrews 13:5
* Revelations 3:20-21