

Conceived

Dec. 13, 2020

Luke 1:26-38

A synonym for conceive is to imagine or visualize. When you were young, did you imagine doing the things that God had planned for you? In today's lesson, we will see God fulfill something well beyond anything we could have imagined.

Last week our study was about God's plans and the fact that they will always come to pass. They are more than plans, they are promises. We explored the first promise concerning John the Baptist's birth and ministry. Today we study the second promise when Mary conceived ***"the Son of the Most High"***.



So here is a young teenage girl that has grown up in the tradition of understanding the history of her people. Then this angel appears and tells her that ***"you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus."*** The angel said that ***"the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David."*** This young girl is literally going to see the fulfillment of a promise over 2,000 years old that generations have been waiting for!

How patient are you? Even after 2,000 years, God kept His promise about sending Jesus. Here we are another 2,000 years later waiting on a promise ... ***"I will come again."*** Just like the promises made in Isaiah and Malachi for John and the promises of Genesis and II Samuel for Jesus; the promise of Jesus coming again will be fulfilled. ***"And Mary said, 'Behold, the Lord's bond-servant; may it be done to me according to your word.'"*** Mary could say this because she believed God's promises are true. We would do well to believe God's promises too. [excerpts from Russ Wilkins]

The Greeting (Luke 1:26-29)

- The angelic appearance to Mary is recorded by Luke in the middle of the story of Zechariah's experience in the Holy of Holies and the birth of his son John by Elizabeth.
 - ***"In the sixth month"*** – refers to the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
 - ***"Gabriel was sent from God"*** – As we learned last week, the angel Gabriel *'was in the presence of God'*. Thus, for him to go to Nazareth, he had to go from God.
 - Joseph and Mary were espoused. They had been through a wedding ceremony and in the custom of their people, Mary lived with her parents for one year before another ceremony would complete the marriage to Joseph. During this year, they had no sexual relations.
 - Joseph's ancestry was from the house (lineage) of king David.
 - ***"thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou"***
 - Gabriel's message to Mary showed she was merely a woman but an especially blessed one.
 - Mary was troubled, not out of fear but she couldn't understand why Gabriel was here and what did this have to do with her?
 - God places people in positions to be used by Him.
- **Have you seen God's hand in your life?**
- **How is he using your current situation to fulfil His will?**



The Declaration (Luke 1:30-33)

- ***"Fear not Mary... found favour with God"***
 - Favour comes from the word grace and describes the unmerited good will of God.
- ***"Behold"*** – pay attention, this is important
 - She would conceive
 - She would bring forth a son
 - She would name him JESUS.
- How did Mary react to Gabriel's message?
 - She had not consummated her marriage with Joseph so how could she conceive a child?
 - How could the angel know the gender of the child and already have chosen his name?
- At this point, the angel began to describe the Messianic characteristics of the child.
 - Jesus would be ***"great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest"***
 - Given her Jewish training, she knew Highest would mean God.
 - How could her son be called the Son of God?
 - ***"God shall give Him the throne of his father David"***
 - Receiving the throne of David was a direct reference to the rule of the Messiah.
 - ***"of His kingdom there shall be no end"***
 - Not only in the nation of Israel, but the Messiah's authority was unlimited.
 - His kingdom would be eternal, He would be Savior of the world.
- **How would you describe Mary's emotions at hearing the angel's declaration?**

Question and Commitment (Luke 1:34-38)

- ***"How shall this be"*** – Mary didn't question God's power or promise, but she was puzzled. How could she conceive since she had never had sexual relations with a man?
- Gabriel responds to Mary's innocent question
 - ***"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee"***
 - ***"The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee"***
- Neither of these statements imply a sexual encounter, rather they show that the baby would be holy, the Son of God.
- Most importantly, it shows the child would bear none of the original sin passed down from Adam. Jesus was completely innocent from conception and lived a perfect sinless life.
- Now it's Mary's turn to respond. Would she say Yes or No?
- ***"Be it unto me according to thy word"***
 - Mary said she was God's servant. She couldn't say no.
 - She embraced her Master and His purpose in her life.
- **Do believers still submit humbly to God's will for them?**

Biblical Truth:

God involves humanity in the redemptive plan of His creation.

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35

