

December 3rd, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: An Angelic Christmas: *Let the Earth Receive Her King!*
Sermon #1 The Announcement
Sermon #1 Text: (Luke 1:26-33)

Introduction:

We come today to the single most important doctrine in the entire Bible. Friend your destiny depends upon the veracity of what we are about to study. In fact, virtually everything else you may want to believe may be true, and it is this one issue, and one issue alone that all things stand. I am not talking about the Resurrection of Jesus. I am not talking about the Crucifixion of Jesus. I am not talking about the Life and Ministry of Jesus; I am not even talking about the Sacred BIRTH of Jesus.

- I am of course, talking about the “Conception” of Jesus.

This wonderful time of year we love to open our Bibles and rightly so warm our hearts with the magnificent birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a joyous, and pinnacle moment for all of mankind, for all of time, the night that baby was born in Bethlehem.

- But now listen to me, and hear me good. I am not in any way diminishing the magnificence of Christ’s birth when I say many baby boys have been born in Bethlehem.

- More than one throughout all of history has been born in less than desirable circumstances.

- More than one baby boy throughout history has brought great joy to a family and to a people.

What I tell you this morning, is this. It is fundamentally Irrelevant to celebrate the wonderful Birth of Jesus, if one has no care for the conception of Jesus.

- How that baby boy was conceived in his Mother's Womb, is what makes Jesus, Jesus. – For if He were not conceived as this book says He was, we are all Lost. – L.O.S.T.

- But I tell you this morning that SINCE He was conceived the way that this book tells us, Multiplied millions have been saved, and you too *can* be saved; S.A.V.E.D.

What we study this morning is not a matter of mere Doctrine, or Philosophy, or Theology... It is THE matter between Life, and Death. Between Heaven and Hell. Between Judgment and Grace!

Do not go through Christmas so focused on the arrival of the Lord Jesus, and miss the very thing that Marks Him as the Lord Jesus Christ.

We begin our study on the history of the Incarnation of God, when God became a man.

- Promised in Genesis
- Prophesied in the Prophets
- Pictured in the Sacrifices
- Then Provided in the Fulness of Time

If the only thing one heard was the Jesus would be King, they didn't they didn't hear everything.

- He did come as King – not to be King.
- He did come to “Save!”

He did not primarily come to save Israel from Rome.

He did not primarily come to save the poor from the Rich.

He did not primarily come to save the oppressed

He primarily came to save His people from their sins!

- From the Power of those sins.
- From the Penalty of those sins.

Ultimately – From the Presence of Sin itself.

Conclusion:

- Now remember this, and remember it well. If Jesus was not conceived in a young lady's womb, without the biology of a man, then He cannot save anyone!

- Before you dwell on His wonderful birth, as glorious as it is. You dwell on the reality that He actually had no earthly biological father.

- Since that is true – EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS BOOK IS TRUE!

- All the promises
- All the warnings
- All the blessings
- All the punishments
- and both destinations of eternity are as real as the carpet on this floor.

NEVER put it out of your mind. Set it front and center.

- This did not randomly happen on the timeline of humanity; this text today began at the exact moment that God planned before the foundation of the world.

Three things to notice about the moment, that God set all of His promises in motion!

I. The Enchanting Meeting – (vs 26-27) “**And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.**”

- There is perhaps no more of an enchanting, sacred, and warming scene in all of the Bible than that of a Holy Angel of God speaking to an innocent girl on earth, in the most intimate of settings about the most sacred of subjects.

*Note – Luke seems to use as few words as possible to give us the fullest amount of revelation that he can.

He starts with just the Minimum facts:

A. The Minimum Facts

*Note – On the surface, these are just the basic essentials that anyone need to know.

1.) When – “the sixth month” –

*Note – specifically the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist.

*Note – That is the earthly time. But it was also part of heaven's timing. – Galatians 4:4 – “**But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.**”

- This was a specific moment in History

- This was a particular moment in Eternity

2.) What – “Gabriel sent from God”

*Note – This is how Luke introduces the narrative concerning the birth of Jesus; and it has the simplest of beginnings.

-This is what you need to know:

- God sent Gabriel to speak to Mary
- From Angel to Woman – From Mouth to Ear; there would be no misunderstanding. – Direct and Simple.

3.) Where – “From Heaven to Nazareth

- a.) Now note He says “a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.”

*Note – Here is great specificity.

4.) Who – “To a virgin named Mary betrothed to a man named Joseph”

*Note – All of these things are the basic facts of any historical moment!

Open up a newspaper to read about something that has happened you’ve heard about; all actual histories contain certain facts intended to help you and me get our bearings. When something Happened, What happened, Where it Happened, and Who it happened to. – These are all hallmarks of a documentable historical moment.

When someone can tell you a “when, what, where, and who” that have given you the basics of a historical moment.

- Now on the surface, those are just the minimum facts!

- But looking deeper, there is a Maximum Truth

B. The Maximum Truth –

*Note – There are a number of questions here that have answers with significant meanings.

*Note – The saved do not know Him as merely a man of History; or a great teacher of the past. We know Him as the Natural born son of the Eternal God!

B. What the Saints will Come to Know

1.) An Earthly Promise Fulfilled – “The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever;”

*Note – Gabriel informed Mary that the very promise that God made to David and to Israel will be fulfilled by this baby boy.

- He actually will rule the world, through the House of Jacob and the throne of David.

- The Lord promised Israel an earthly King, and Gabriel said straight from Heaven’s throne, this Boy is that King!

2.) An Eternal King Forever – “and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”

*Note – Now is Christ’s kingdom earthly, or heavenly – Absolutely. He will rule the world materially during His millennial reign. – But first He will rule the world “individually” through the salvation of the soul!

Far too many people try to make a false distinction between the earthly kingdom, and the Spiritual one. – There will be no one in the earthly kingdom, who is not FIRST in the Spiritual one.

- Before Christ governs the world of men; He came to govern the hearts of them!

- Jesus would say – “The Kingdom of God is within.”

C. What the Savior Comes to Do – “He shall save His people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:21

Now she is the only one that has ever happened to, or will happen to.

- But in one parallel way know this. When God has called you out by His grace and favor, you are to embrace His will for life.

III. The Enduring Meaning – (vs 31-33) “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”

- (vs 35) – “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

- In order to get a fuller picture, we put this together with what Gabriel (the angel of the Lord) said to Joseph.

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:21

*Note – Here are some divine declarations that give us the framework by which we begin to learn more and more about Jesus. These are the things that God told the Angels to tell us!

A. What the Saved Will come to Say

1.) “shall be called the Son of the Highest”

2.) “shall be called the Son of God”

*Note – “Shall be called” speaks of how men will come to know Him and understand Him.

a) Those He saves will and say, continue to say, and continue to insist that Jesus is the Son of God!

Remembering that single second of time, every single syllable of message, and every single start of movement was instigated by God!

- Had God not moved, there is nothing here worthy of studying.

- What we do see in these truths?

1.) God’s Exclusive Action – “An angel, not a prophet”

*Note – The Lord does something that comparatively speaking did very few times in the Bible. He sent an angel, rather than a prophet!

a.) It was the prophets the Lord sent to promise us a Savior.

b.) It was the prophets that the Lord used to identify all of the things that was supposed to occur around this event.

c.) It was through the prophets that the Lord had given Israel all they needed to know in order to be waiting on Messiah.

*Note – Every time we come to the nativity, I cannot help but remind you of the fact that when you put the prophets together, you had the time, the place, and the people of the Messiah’s birth; and yet the nation as a whole was completely disinterested.

- But here; no prophet, an angel. Furthermore a specific angel. – Gabriel.

- By definition according to MS Mills, his name means, “God is Mighty”.

For reasons only known in the depths of God's Wisdom, He gave this task to no man on earth.

- Furthermore, He gave this task to an angel that stands in the inner circle of God Himself.

1:19 – "...I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee..." is what he said to Zacharias.

Throughout the Bible, the scriptures only call his name 4 times; and only to three different people.

- *He was sent to Daniel* – to show him the course of the ages.

- *He was sent to Zacharias* – to tell him he would have a son, and he was to name the boy John.

- *He was sent to Mary* – to inform her of her place in God's plan to redeem all of the human race.

All of that being said to say this – This statement tells us that this very task physically came from the exclusivity of the Holiest presence of Almighty God!

2.) God's Exhaustive Discretion – "Galilee, Nazareth – rather than Jerusalem, Judea"

*Note – At every turn for bringing Christ into the world He increased Jesus' disadvantage among men.

*Note – The Bible tells us that He became "poor" for us, which has its own set of troubles and disadvantages.

*Note – But if there was a way to make Christ's earthly background the most socially unacceptable, God did it.

a.) He would be poor.

b.) He would have a stigma of being born of fornication used against Him by all the leaders.

1.) – 1:12 – When Zacharias saw him he was troubled.

2.) vs 29 – When she "heard him" she was troubled.

When Zacharias heard the full message, he said – How do I know you're telling me the truth – And lost his ability to speak till the child was born.

When Mary heard the full message, she said in verse 38 – "...be it unto me according to thy word."

#1 – The Number one wrong answer to the known word of God is "How do I know you're telling me the truth?"

#2 – The Number one right answer to the Known Word of God is "be it unto me according to Thy Word."

There is awe in the presence of God, even when all the news is good!

C. Mary's Special Work – "You shall birth the Son of God."

1.) This is the thing that Gabriel was sent to tell Mary.

a.) You will conceive a son, without a man.

b.) You will name the son JESUS

c.) You will raise the boy JESUS

d.) He is the Son of God!

What Gabriel said to Mary was not what she would do for a moment – but what she would do for her life!

- Her attention would be given to nothing else but her family.

- She was given custody of God Himself in the flesh.

Know this – There wasn't anything in Mary, that caused her to merit this honor. Grace and merit can not go together. Don't get the idea that there was something uniquely special in this young lady – there was something uniquely special in the Grace that God would bestow on her.

When the Lord emphasizes His grace three times in the same conversation, you ought to be able to see that God worked in Mary's life through His Unmerited Favor.

- God decided the object of His favor - Mary
- God decided the degree of His favor – Highly

Furthermore, there is a promised blessing to Mary that stood against the backdrop of her life like the North Star on a clear night.

- Elizabeth her cousin would shout – **“Blessed art thou among women...”**
 - Against the backdrop of an unfavored village
 - Against the backdrop of false accusations for a time.
 - Against all of the ill things that would come from the world Mary lived in – Mary would one day be looked upon throughout all of history as the most blessed woman to ever live!

B. Mary's Natural Awe – “troubled at his saying”
“what manner of salutation this should be?”

*Note – Make no mistake about it, when this natural man is given a glimpse of the angel from heaven, it will stop any man or woman in their tracks.

*Note – Here is one grand difference between Mary's reaction to Gabriel, and Zacharias reaction to Gabriel.

c.) He would be raised in the region of Galilee, in the city of Nazareth.

*Note – At that time, the land was generally divided into three areas. – Judea in the South, Galilee in the North, and Samaria in the Middle.

- No one like the Samaritans.
- But there was a stark social division between the Jews of Jerusalem, and the Jews of Galilee.

- The Jews of Jerusalem were considered the educated, sophisticated, erudite in their times. Or at least that was the common perception. –

- The Jews in Galilee were the hillbillies and rednecks of Israel. Rough around the edges; not interested in ivory tower thoughts, or philosophies. Some may say they were so down to earth they had dirt in their teeth.

- It is a picture of the ageless divide between “City folk” and “Country folk” – between the Shiny and the Dirty; or between the Tuxedos of Jerusalem and the Camo of Capernaum.

- To add to that, it was not just the region of Galilee; but it was Nazareth. – If our historians are correct, it was among the worst of them all.

- Nazareth had the reputation of being a societal boat anchor; low living and loose morals.

The attitude toward Nazareth is evident in Nathaniel; one of the Lord's first disciples, responded to Philip when he told him that they had found the Messiah.

- He said – **“Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?”**

- The Lord Jesus would have NO earthly advantages during His life and ministry.

I tell you what though. There is no greater picture of Redemption than Jesus coming from Nazareth.

Twenty-Nine Times the New Testament reminds us that Jesus is from Nazareth. – There are only 27 books in the New Testament.

- Pilate wrote on the Cross – “Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews”

- The angels at the empty tomb said to the women – “ye seek Jesus of Nazareth”

- When the Lord knocked Saul off His horse, long after He had already ascended into glory, Jesus identified Himself as saying – **“I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.”** – Acts 22

*Note – From the lowest of all lows, to the highest of all highs, the Lord Jesus carried the name of His hometown all the way to glory with Him. – The town that was a shame on earth, is now a town with a name in Heaven!

3.) God’s Exact Selection – “Mary and Joseph”

*Note – Out of all the billions of people of all time, the Lord by divine selection, said – “those two” and in particular – “that one.”

- a.) A betrothed couple, but not a married one.

- b.) A couple legally bound to each other, but yet physically separated.

- c.) A couple who already served Him, obeyed Him most likely at a social discomfort.

- Mary found Favor – Joseph was called a Just man – all in the middle of a village known for its low living. Their families didn’t seem to fit, what we know of that culture.

*Note – Know this – It pays to serve God right where you are regardless of the social difficulties. God’s grace, and God’s favor, God’s eyesight, and God’s knowledge will always be present where you are, regardless of who is around you.

In His divine wisdom – God selected these two, out of this place, at this time in history.

- What an Enchanted Meeting!

II. The Endearing Message – (vs 28-30) “And the angel came into her and said, *Hail, thou that art* highly favored, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women. And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.”

Luke shows us the meeting, and now lets us in on the message. Gabriel started with Mary’s Personal Grace

A. Mary’s Personal Grace – “highly favored” – “blessed among women” – “thou hast found favor with God”

- 1.) Three times, in the story Gabriel emphasizes that Mary is a direct object of God’s grace.

*Note – This is the same kind of language or sentiment that the Bible uses of Noah when God instructed him to build an ark.

- The Bible says in Genesis 6:8 – **“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”**