

A RECAP

The Problem - Mankind, created in the image of God and enjoying sweet fellowship with Him, leaped headlong into sin and was living under its curse. “How great the chasm...” Man was - and is now - fully incapable of repairing the relationship with God.

The Prophets – Over the course of thousands of years (Gen. 3 and following) God revealed His plan of redemption through a series of prophets



The Process – After hundreds of years of relative silence on that matter, a series of angelic visits made ready the hearts of the individuals whom God had chosen for vital roles

To Zechariah and Elizabeth (1:11-20)

To Mary (1:26-38)

To Joseph (Matt. 1:20-21)

EVERY REASON TO HOPE: THE PROCESS

Luke 1:26-38



VS. 26

In the sixth month (of Elizabeth's pregnancy)

Gabriel – same messenger of God who interpreted Daniel's visions (Daniel 8) AND foretold birth of John the Baptist (1:19)

VSS. 27-28

Virgin birth (1:27, 34; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:22-23) reflects sinlessness and deity

Pledged to - legally binding in that culture, broken only by a certificate of divorce



VSS. 29-31

“Greetings!...The Lord is with you...Do not be afraid...”
“You will be with child”

Mary's pregnancy “before (Mary and Joseph) came together” (see Matt 1:18-19) would have suggested adultery and would have meant death under the Law (Deut. 22:13-24)

Joseph's reaction is incredible



VSS. 31B - 33

The name Jesus “the Lord is salvation” declares both the Person and the Purpose

Great, and Son of the Most High - Divine indeed

David's Throne, Reign over house of Jacob, Eternal kingdom - Clear references to Messiah whom the prophets foretold



VS. 34

“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

Mary's question was unlike Zechariah's, which led to his chastisement (1:18-20)

Hers was a question of logistics, not lack of faith.



VSS. 35-37

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

The Incarnation was accomplished through the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:20b)



VS. 38

“I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.”

Such humility.

Such trust.

Such complete surrender.

“Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.” (1:45)



FOR FURTHER READING

You just have to check out Mary's song – and Zechariah's song while you're at it - recorded in Luke 1. Further reminders that we have every reason to hope!