

**"Considering Christ's Coming"**

King David was not only a man of war; he was also a man of words. There was a depth about him emotionally; God had gifted him musically, poetically, he was the "sweet psalmist of Israel". As for me; I'm really drawn after David, not because *I'm* any of those things, but because beyond all of that David was a thinker. He was curious, asked questions, pondered life. & *Anyone who truly knows me, knows I think a lot; my mind is typically turning (oh, not so much as to try & unravel the deep mysteries of the universe, but my mind is generally on the move). & From what I can tell, David seemed to be a lot like that. A man of meditation/consideration.*

& We know (because the bible tells us) that he was a man after God's own heart. Not so much meaning that he was a "chip off the ol block". But more that he sought after the heart of God. He pursued God, set his mind on the things of God. & For all his faults & failures he wanted to know & be found pleasing to God.

*& As I was considering the coming of Christ (as this time of year tends to lend itself to) my mind was drawn back to David. Because although we can trace the coming of Christ back into eternity past, see it's 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Genesis at the fall of man, work our way through the calling of Ab, Isaac & Jacob; on down through Judah & the rest. The Kingdom of the Christ connects itself directly to David, the most common messianic title He has is the Son of David.*

So the camera pans into focus for us about 1,000 yrs before the coming of Christ. David has fought many battles, been king of Israel for a number of years, he's settled in, he's established. He's at a place where God has given him rest from his enemies on every side, he has time on his hands... & he's thinking. & There he is; he's thinking of how good God has been to him. How God has taken him from being this little, completely irrelevant, insignificant shepherd boy to being king over all Israel. He has riches, he has a giant home, commands a kingdom, everything (from an earthly perspective) that his heart could possibly desire...

*But he's not soaking in it from a prideful perspective, but rather from a truly grateful for all that God has done for him kind of place. He's just looking around thinking, "God, You've been so good to me, You've blessed me so abundantly. I'm just wondering, (thinking), is there anything I could do that would bless You - ?"* (Btw, I would challenge you in like manner. God has been so good to you, He's paid the penalty of your sin, forgiven you & given you new life in Jesus, the gift of his Holy Spirit. How can you, How can I, what can we do [from a grateful heart] that would bless Him?)

He's thinking through this & he's looking around & this thought comes to him. He thinks, "I want to build God a house. The ark has been in this ratty old tent for centuries & here I am in this palatial estate. It doesn't seem right, God needs something grand, something glorious..." So he calls Nathan the prophet & says, "You know, this doesn't seem right. I dwell in this beautiful house made of Cedar, but God dwells in a tent made of curtains..." Nathan is all, "I see where you're going with this David; do all that is in your heart for God is with you." Nathan gives him the green light, the "go ahead". The problem w/that is that *God* didn't give him the green light. Nathan was simply (understandably) swept up in the emotion of the moment.

### Vs 4-20

The sweet Psalmist of Israel is sitting there speechless. He says, "God what can I say? There are no words that can be uttered that could express the overwhelming emotion & gratitude of my heart."

### Vs 21-28

Isn't that incredible? God says, "David; because you found it in your heart to want to do something great for Me, I'm going to truly do something great for you. You wanted to build Me a house (that's not for you to do) but here's what I'm going to do, I'm going to build *you a house*. I'm going to establish *your house* & I'm going to bring forth One from you who's throne I will establish forever & ever..." Isaiah underscores it again, "*Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*"<sup>1</sup> Can you imagine that? What would you do w/that? How do you respond to that? David found it in his heart to fall on his face before God & pray, & worship Him, & exalt His word to the glory of His name...

Ok; our scene fades to black. As the next scene pans up we read, "Approximately 1,000 yrs later." Obviously, a lot has happened historically. Israel has been carried away into captivity, released & rebuilt the walls, the temple & reestablished Jerusalem under the likes of Ezra, Nehemiah & Zerubbabel. However, hundreds of years have passed even since then & now they're under the yoke of Roman occupation. (Luke Ch 1)

For the last 400 yrs or so God has been flying under the radar. He hasn't sent a prophet nor uttered a word or new revelation to/through Israel in all that time.

<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Is 9:7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

As the temple begins to come into focus, we find an old priest by the name of Zacharias ministering before the Lord. The lot had landed upon him to offer incense at the hour of prayer... & the whole multitude of people were praying outside. It's quite the scene. Multitudes of people praying, incense rising (which is a picture of the prayers of the saints rising before the throne of God), Zacharias is ministering when suddenly an angel appears to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense...

### Vs 12-17

Family; can I just quickly dispel the myth of angels being romantic creatures or chubby naked babies w/wings? When Zacharias saw this angel his 1<sup>st</sup> thought wasn't, "What a cute wittle baby ☺", fear fell upon him! This was a glorious, fearful & awesome creature! The 1<sup>st</sup> thing the angel had to do after it had revealed itself to Zacharias was to say, "Do not be afraid." Why? Because Zacharias was afraid!

Now; I should also say this. It's highly doubtful that at that moment Zacharias was praying for a son. He was there to minister on behalf of the nation, to pray for the appearing of the Messiah & the salvation of Israel. Not to mention, if you were to continue to read here (which we're going to skip over) you would discover (as I mentioned a moment ago) he & his wife (Elizabeth) were well advanced in years! **It was something that they'd no doubt passionately prayed for (Elizabeth being barren) for years & years in times past, but they'd settled into the fact that it just wasn't going to happen. The age of bearing children had simply passed.**

There's a take home here & that is this. Sometimes we may pray for something, fervently for years. Maybe the salvation of a loved one or a calling in ministry, maybe someone to spend our lives with, through the marriage bond. But after years of heartfelt prayer we sort of give up. Maybe even begin to doubt God's care *about* us or love *for* us.

**But this passage reminds us that God does hear us; that He does love us & that He does have a plan for us that He will fulfill in His time. Ours is to seek Him, & to submit to Him & trust that He has our eternal interest & His eternal glory in heart.**

Btw, forgive me if this blurs a line in a political arena but I can't pass over this section of scripture w/out pointing out the fact that the angel says of John (J.B. the forerunner to the Messiah) that he would be filled w/the Holy Spirit, "even from his mother's *womb*." People like to use the word "fetus" because it doesn't have the emotional attachment or the same seeming moral gravity as do the words "human being." But life begins at conception...

God told Jeremiah, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*<sup>2</sup> God's plan for you was ordained before you were formed in the womb! John would be filled w/the Holy Spirit even while *in* his mother's womb. Why? For what plan/purpose? That he would go before the Christ in the spirit & power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children & to turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God... "Messiah is coming Zacharias; & your son is going to prepare Israel for His arrival..."

Our scene goes black. I'm not sure exactly how much time has gone by. He had his days of service to fulfill before he went home, but I doubt that he & Elizabeth delayed much in doing their part ☺. Having said that, it's now the 6<sup>th</sup> month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.

### Vs 26-28

The whole scene that surrounds the coming of Jesus is filled w/awe & wonder, would you agree? & I suppose we should expect nothing less as it pertains to the coming of the Son of God; the Savior of the world to this earth.

The angel Gabriel is dispatched once again to a town called Nazareth. More than anything, Nazareth was known for not being known. Being identified as Mary & Joseph's living area is it's 1<sup>st</sup> mention anywhere in the bible. It wasn't near anything significant, had one well that wasn't that great in the middle of town, remarkably unremarkable & yet Jesus would identify w/*this place more than any other*. Repeatedly throughout the gospels He's referred to as "Jesus of Nazareth". Perhaps you remember when Philip found Nathaniel & was like, "We've found Him of whom Moses, the law & the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth!" Nathaniel says to him, *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* Philip said to him, *"Come and see."*<sup>3</sup>

This is your Lord & mine, the King of heaven, worthy of all blessing, power & praise, not setting Himself up in the untouchable ivory towers of the earth, but associating w/the lowly, accessible to everybody, so loving the world...

Gabriel comes to Mary who was betrothed to Joseph. Betrothal was basically the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the soon to be marriage relationship. Engagement was the formal agreement between fathers, betrothal was a ceremony whereby promises were made & by that time the next year the marriage union would take place whereby the bridegroom could come at any time & the bride was to be prepared to be taken away.

<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Je 1:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Jn 1:46). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Mary & Joseph were betrothed, no physical union, not living together, Mary was till a virgin, but they were legally bound to one another.

Gabriel presents himself *before* her & says (essentially) 3 things *to* her. #1 She was highly favored. #2 The Lord was w/her & #3 She was blessed among women.

#1 She was highly favored. The word translated “highly favored” here literally means “to be grace bestowed” she was becoming the recipient of God’s freely bestowed, beneficent goodwill, she would be greatly graced...

#2 The Lord was w/her. Again, I would point out that she wasn’t rich, didn’t live in a great part of town, God’s love/grace toward her wasn’t spelled out in material wealth or creature comforts, but God was w/her, watching out *over* her, taking care *of* her nonetheless.

& #3 She was blessed among women. I would point out, she wasn’t blessed *above* women, she’s not an object of worship or adoration over & above any other god fearing woman. But she was certainly blessed *among* women. Let’s be careful that we don’t diminish the fact that she was a unique recipient of the grace of God in that she alone of all women throughout time & history would have the distinct honor bestowed upon her to bring forth the Son of God. Blessed among women indeed!

Yet I would also just point out to you that all that was true of her, is true of you in Christ. You have been greatly graced, the Lord is w/you, will never leave nor forsake you & you’ve been blessed w/every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph 1:3).

### Vs 29-33

Gabriel assures her that she has found favor w/God, she has been graced of God. (& Let’s remember [for all our sakes] that God’s grace isn’t predicated upon our goodness, but upon *His*. God doesn’t say, what a good man, what a good woman, I’m going to give her/him My grace. There are none that are righteous, none who do good. Meaning, not one person is capable of a completely, purely righteous act. Everything we do has been touched/tainted by sin. The grace of God is entirely rooted in *His* goodness).

Mary would conceive & bring forth a Son & would call His name; Jesus. “He will be great.” One of the *great* understatement of the bible; but I suppose we’re only able to express ourselves w/the words which we’ve been given. Jesus would be great in the *perfection* of His nature. Great in the *office* He held. Great in the majesty of all He would accomplish, both historically & eternally.

There is no one who has impacted world history (not to mention all of eternity) anywhere near to the extent that Jesus has.

Not only would He be the Son of Mary; He would be the Son of God & He would be given (notice) “the throne of His father (his ancestor)... David.” Assuring Him the legal/scriptural right to rule & reign forever, even as God had given His word to David, that He would build him a house & establish his throne forever.

Now; there are # of things we could peel out of this. But what I want to assure you of in *this* moment is the reliability of the word of God. Num 23:19, “*God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*”<sup>4</sup> You think you’ve had to wait a long time for God to bring a promise to pass for you... Think about David! *When God made him a promise, I dunno, perhaps he thought that Messiah would be born to him as a grandchild, or maybe a couple of generations down the road; God told him what he’d do, didn’t tell him when He’d do it. This is so often the case; we know the what, we don’t know the when. But God’s word will always come to pass, not one word (Josh 21:45) shall fail or fall to the ground.*

The word of God to David (in sending the Messiah through his seed) would wait for 1,000 yrs. But God is faithful, & will always bring His word to pass...

Ok... Mary speaks w/the angel. The angel informs her that what will happen in her will be a miraculous occurrence. That it would be through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit coming upon her that she would conceive; & through that, not only would Jesus be the Son of Man, but also the Son of God.

### Vs 37-38

Would to God that we could all so readily receive the promises of the otherwise impossible from the word of God. She responds w/an affirmation of faith, “Let it be to me according to your word.”

Having heard that Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant, Mary went & spent the last 3 months of her term w/her & then as you know in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. They were building lots of roads & someone had to pay for it 😊.

So Joseph had to load up his very pregnant wife (legally, not relationally yet) & take her *from* Nazareth *to*...? Bethlehem. Why?

<sup>4</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Nu 23:19] Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Because they were to be registered, everyone to his own city & Mary & Joseph were from the city of David, also known as... (Ch 2 Vs 4) Bethlehem. But in reality it was because God had made in plain. *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."*<sup>5</sup>

If the one who is to bear the Son of God is in Nazareth, but she needs to be in Bethlehem to fulfill God's word, how do you get her there being incredibly pregnant? You move heaven & earth. All the world is taxed & she has to go. Is Caesar in control? I don't think so. God is bringing His word to pass...

### Vs 6-7

A great work of God, taking place in the quite simplicity of daily life. Listen, God had said that a Savior would come; & He did. The word of God *did* not; & *has* not failed. & As we consider His coming & all that it implies, the bible also says that He will come again. Listen to me; heaven & earth will pass away, but God's word will never, by no means pass away.

**Why would God tell us of His coming? So that we might be prepared. Whether He comes for us collectively wrapping up world history, or comes for us individually when our time on this earth is through, it's so important to be ready. Jesus came to seek & to save that which is lost; namely you & me.** His purpose in being born was to die, to pay the price demanded of our sin through the shedding of His blood upon the cross. Rising again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day that by believing we would be justified, forgiven, counted as righteous in the sight of God... Let's bow our hearts, come before Him, worship & adore Him even now.

### Prayer Points:

Lord we come before You, bow our hearts at Your feet & adore You. Your love for us is beyond comprehension, but we thank You for all You've done for us. May our lives honor You, bless You & bring glory to You.

There's another beautiful promise in the bible. If we believe on the Lord J.C. we will be saved, for whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved... If God is speaking *to* you, dealing *with* you, you are ready to turn from your sin & trust wholeheartedly in Him then do so today!

<sup>5</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Mic 5:2]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.