

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 1:5-38

- I. The _____ leading up to Christ's Birth
- A. The time period was a spiritually _____ one
- 400 years of seeming _____ between the Old and New Testament
 - The governmental leader: King Herod the Great, the ruling king over Judea
 - He was a _____ and paranoid king
 - He had at least _____ wives
 - He had one of his wives and two of his sons _____
 - He was determined to _____ the earth of the "New Born King of the Jews"
 - The Wise Men came looking for the King **Mt. 2:1-12**
 - Herod instructed them to go find the King and report back to him so he could " _____ " him also
 - God instructed them not to report back to Herod
 - Herod killed all the young male Jewish children in an effort to rid himself of the "New Born King" **Mt 2:13-16**
- B. There was great _____ between the Northern and Southern kingdoms
- The Jews of Southern Israel had a great _____ for the Jews of Northern Israel
 - John 1:45-46** Nathaniel's expression of _____ to his brother Phillip's announcement
- C. There were challenges for the _____ leadership of that day **Vs 5-25**
- The announcement by Gabriel to Zacharias
 - Zacharias' _____
 - Zacharias was a _____ follower (righteous) of God **Vs 5-7**
 - Zacharias was a man filled with _____ **Vs 8-17**
 - Zacharias' disbelief was _____ **Vs 18-22**
 - Zacharias _____ the mercy and grace of God **Vs 23-25**
- II. The Announcement of Christ's Birth **Vs 26-38**
- A. Six _____ of Elizabeth's pregnancy had elapsed
- B. Even though the people of Judah scorned the Jews in Galilee, God chose a young lady from Nazareth, of _____ to be the mother of His Only Begotten Son
- Mary was a descendant of David, and from the Tribe of Judah
 - Mary was _____ to Joseph, the carpenter
 - It appears that both Mary and Joseph were _____ people
 - Engagement in that day was looked at as though they were already _____ and the engagement could only be broken by divorce
 - Mary was a cousin to Elizabeth
 - Mary was probably in her early _____ years, and she was a virgin
- C. Gabriel made the announcement of Jesus birth **Vs 26-33**
- He announced to _____ the birth of John, the Baptist
 - He announced to _____ the birth of Jesus, the Son of God
 - This announcement to Mary had great importance, since in Scripture the _____ usually is the one given important news by God
 - Gabriel's greeting to Mary: "Rejoice, highly _____ one, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among _____ women!" **Vs 28**
 - Mary was _____ and disturbed at the greeting. **Vs 29**

- a. Do not _____ what is happening **Vs 30a**
 - b. God has _____ to show you favor **Vs 30b**
 - c. You will have a male child and you will name Him Jesus **Vs 31**
 - d. This Son will be the _____ Son of God **Vs 32**
 - e. This Son will be _____ over Israel forever **Vs 33**
- D. Mary tried to understand how this could ever take place under the circumstances **Vs 34**
- 1. This response seemed to be a moot point, yet God saw fit to record it.
 - 2. Could it be God wants us to understand that He chooses _____ He will have carry out His purposes?
 - 3. Could it be God wants us to understand that His choices are not determined by our " _____"?
 - 4. Could it be God wants us to understand He _____ accomplish any task He wishes through whomever He wishes?
 - 5. Could it be God wants us to know we don't have to _____ what He is doing in our life, we just need to _____?
- E. Gabriel helped Mary understand and realize God was _____ at work. **Vs 35-37**
- 1. The fulfillment of the announcement would be a supernatural act of God _____ **Vs 35**
 - 2. She was not the only one in whom God was performing a _____ **Vs 36-**
- 37
- G. Mary's _____ submitted **Vs 38**
- 1. Not having time to _____ the situation at hand,
 - 2. Not totally understanding the full _____ of what was taking place,
 - 3. Not understanding fully _____ God would make this happen,
 - 4. Mary _____ submitted to God's sovereign rule over her without reservation.

Conclusion: As Christians, by faith we _____ the events of the Christmas story without reservation. How long has it been since we imagined _____ in these events and tried to think about the responses we would have given? The birth of Christ is not some pretty " _____" with a happy ending. It is the account of the Son of God coming into this sin cursed world through unusual, yet _____ conditions. Let's rejoice that Jesus was willing to come, and that He used _____ people like us to accomplish this miraculous event. Then let's be as _____ to the challenges of life as Mary was.