

6/2/13

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK THREE

TITLE: **GABRIEL'S MIRACULOUS ANNOUNCEMENT
TO MARY**

TEXT: LUKE 1:26-38

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY IN OUR TEXT TODAY, PARALLELS THE ANNOUNCEMENT HE MADE TO ZECHARIAH IN THE STUDY OF OUR TEXT IN LUKE LAST WEEK.

*** AND THUS LUKE'S INTENTION IS FOR JESUS AND JOHN TO BE COMPARED IN THESE TWO PASSAGES, AND FOR US TO SEE THAT JESUS IS, DEMONSTRABLY, CLEARLY GREATER THAN JOHN.**

**** TO ILLUSTRATE THAT, LET ME GIVE YOU SOME COMPARISONS.**

***** JOHN'S CONCEPTION IS REMARKABLE, BUT JESUS' CONCEPTION THROUGH THE CREATIVE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MIRACULOUS.**

**** JOHN WAS THE FORERUNNER, THE MESSENGER SENT AHEAD TO ANNOUNCE THE KING.

(2) JESUS WAS THE KING, TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS, TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST.

* AND THEN NOTICE THE SIMILARITIES: JOHN AND JESUS - TWO COUSINS, TWO PREGNANCIES, TWO DELIVERIES AT THE BEGINNING OF TWO GREAT LIVES.

** BOTH JOHN AND JESUS WERE BORN TO GODLY WOMEN, WHOM APART FROM DIVINE INTERVENTION WERE UNABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN.

*** THE BIRTH OF BOTH COUSINS WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE SAME ANGEL, GABRIEL, WHO TOLD PEOPLE NOT TO BE AFRAID, PROCLAIMED THE BIRTH OF A SON, GAVE EACH CHILD HIS NAME AND EXPLAINED HIS MISSION IN LIFE.

**** YET, FOR ALL THESE SIMILARITIES, WHAT LUKE MAINLY WANTS US TO SEE ARE THE DIFFERENCES, AS I SAID EARLIER TO SHOW THAT JESUS IS GREATER THAN JOHN.

(3) JOHN'S MOTHER WAS BARREN, HOWEVER THE MOTHER OF JESUS HAD NEVER BEEN WITH A MAN AT ALL.

* JOHN WOULD BE THE PROPHET CRYING IN THE **WILDERNESS; JESUS WOULD REIGN ON DAVID'S** THRONE.

**** JOHN WOULD BE "GREAT BEFORE THE LORD" IN LUKE 1:15, JESUS WOULD BE "GREAT" WITH** QUALIFICATION, LUKE 1:32, THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD.

*** JOHN WOULD BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB, BUT JESUS WOULD BE CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN HIS MOTHER'S WOMB.

**** JOHN WOULD PREPARE FOR GOD'S COMING, BUT WHEN JESUS CAME, GOD WAS THERE, IN THE FLESH.

(4) SO WHO IS GREATER – JOHN OR JESUS?

* WELL, OBVIOUSLY LUKE ARGUES JESUS TO GIVE GREATER GLORY TO JESUS.

** AND GABRIEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH WAS GREAT, HOWEVER GABRIEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY WAS GLORIOUS, BEYOND GREAT, FOR THE SON OF MAN WOULD COME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST.

** AND TODAY IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE, WE MOVE FROM GABRIEL'S MARVELOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH TO GABRIEL'S MIRACULOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY.

**** AND WE WILL LOOK AT 3 THINGS AS WE STUDY THIS PROFOUND MIRACULOUS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHOWS THAT JESUS IS GREATER, GLORIOUS AND GOD.

(5) NO. 1 GABRIEL'S APPROACH TO MARY, VV. 26-29; NO. 2 GABRIEL'S ANNUNCIATION TO MARY, VV. 30-34; AND NO. 3 GABRIEL'S ANSWER TO MARY, VV. 35-38.

* AND WITH THOSE POINTS AS OUR GUIDE, LOOK **AT LUKE 1:26 PLEASE, WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, GABRIEL'S APPROACH.**

I. **GABRIEL'S APPROACH TO MARY**, (READ V. 26)

A. **NOW IN CONSIDERING THE ANGEL GABRIEL'S APPROACH TO MARY, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT HE HAD MADE AN APPEARANCE TO ZECHARIAH, THE FATHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER SIX MONTHS EARLIER.**

*** SO THE PHRASE "IN THE SIXTH MONTH" IS TALKING ABOUT THE 6TH MONTH AFTER ZECHARIAH'S WIFE ELIZABETH'S CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER, 6 MONTHS AFTER SHE BECAME PREGNANT, WHICH WAS A MIRACLE FOR ELIZABETH WHO WAS BARREN AND OLD.**

**** SO GABRIEL MADE A MIRACULOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH AND NOW, A MIRACULOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY.**

***** AND NOTE HERE GABRIEL IS ONE OF ONLY TWO ELECT ANGELS NAMED IN THE BIBLE, THE OTHER ONE, MICHAEL, WHOM IS AN ARCHANGEL, A SUPERANGEL ASSOCIATED WITH ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRING POWER AND STRENGTH.**

****** WHEREAS GABRIEL IS GOD'S SUPREME MESSENGER, WHO BROUGHT GREAT, GLORIOUS AND CRUCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM HEAVEN.**

1. IN DANIEL 9, FOR EXAMPLE, GABRIEL DELIVERED THE ALL IMPORTANT PRONOUNCEMENT TO DANIEL REGARDING THE REST OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY, AS UNFOLDED IN THE INCREDIBLE VISION OF THE 70 WEEKS.

* AND THEN HE MAKES THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAS, ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER, THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST.

** AND HERE IN OUR TEXT TODAY, HE MAKES THE MIRACULOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY.

*** SO THIS HIGH-RANKING ANGEL OF GOD CAME DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN TO A GALILEAN TOWN, IN THE LAST PART OF V. 26, CALLED NAZARETH.

**** NOW NAZARETH WAS A SMALL VILLAGE OF ABOUT 1600 TO 2000 PEOPLE. IT WAS A SMALL OBSCURE VILLAGE, A NON-PLACE, NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN THE O.T.

2. AND WHEN NATHANIEL MENTIONED **NAZARETH IN JOHN 1:46 HE SAID, "CAN ANY GOOD THINGS COME OUT OF NAZARETH?"**

* IMPLYING THAT IT WAS MISERABLY CORRUPT, NOT LOOKED UP TO, MY POINT BEING, NAZARETH WAS NOT MUCH OF A TOWN.

** **AND IT'S** INTERESTING TO ME THAT OUR GREAT GOD DID NOT CHOOSE A WOMAN FROM JERUSALEM IN JUDEA TO BE USED BY HIM TO BRING FORTH HIS SON, NOR A WOMAN FROM ROME, NOR A PRINCESS, BUT A POOR WOMAN FROM NAZARETH.

*** A SMALL HUMBLE TOWN LOOKED DOWN UPON, REMINDING US **THAT OUR LORD'S WAYS** ARE ABOVE OUR WAYS AND HE COMES TO THE HUMBLE AND LOWLY, AND HE WILL WITH THIS YOUNG WOMAN FROM NAZARETH, WHO IS IDENTIFIED IN V. 27. LOOK AT V. 27 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 27. **NOW LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF CHRIST'S BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT CONTINUES ITS DIVINE PERSPECTIVE BY REPORTING GOD'S CHOICE OF THE SPECIAL PERSON WHO WOULD BE JESUS' MOTHER.**

* AND THE PERSON IS IDENTIFIED AS A VIRGIN BETHROTHED OR ENGAGED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID.

**** AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY.** AND THE NAME MARY IS THE GREEK FORM OF THE **HEBREW MIRIAM AND MEANS "EXALTED ONE."**

*** AND SHE IS CALLED A VIRGIN TWICE HERE IN V. 27, AND THAT SHE TRULY WAS ONE IS COMMUNICATED AGAIN IN V. 34 BY MARY HERSELF.

**** SO 3 TIMES IN OUR TEXT SHE IS CALLED A VIRGIN. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT MARY WAS A VIRGIN.

1. NOW NEXT IN V. 27 IT SAYS MARY WAS ENGAGED OR BETHROTHED TO JOSEPH, WHOSE LINEAGE GOES BACK TO DAVID, THE FORMER **KING OF ISRAEL. AND I'LL SAY MORE ABOUT THAT IN V. 32.**

* BUT UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE JEWISH BEHTROTHAL OR ENGAGEMENT, A COUPLE WAS CONSIDERED HUSBAND AND WIFE, BUT WOULD NOT COME TOGETHER PHYSICALLY UNTIL THEIR MARRIAGE.

** THEY WERE PLEDGED TO BE MARRIED, THEY ENTERED INTO A MARRIAGE COMMITMENT OR COVENANT AND THIS ENGAGEMENT PERIOD WOULD LAST AROUND A YEAR. IT WAS INTENDED TO PROVE FIDELITY AND COMMITMENT, AND AT THE END OF THAT TIME THE OFFICIAL WEDDING WOULD TAKE PLACE AND THE MARRIAGE SUPPER, AND THE WEDDING CELEBRATION LASTED FOR ABOUT A WEEK.

*** AND AT THAT TIME THE MARRIAGE WOULD BE CONSUMMATED PHYSICALLY.

*** SO JOSEPH AND MARY FOLLOWED THE NORMAL JEWISH TRADITION. AND IN THAT TRADITION GIRLS WERE ENGAGED AT 12 OR 13 YEARS OF AGE, AROUND THE TIME OF REACHING PUBERTY AND MARRIED AT THE END OF THE ENGAGEMENT PERIOD.

**** AND THAT PRACTICE ENSURED THAT YOUNG GIRLS MAINTAINED THEIR VIRGINITY UNTIL MARRIAGE. SO MARY WAS AROUND 12-13 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO HER FROM GABRIEL - PRETTY INCREDIBLE.

2. NOW **GABRIEL'S FIRST WORDS TO MARY ARE** GIVEN IN V. 28. LOOK AT V. 28 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 28. NOW GABRIEL COMES IN, PROBABLY TO THE HOUSE WHERE MARY IS AT **AND SAYS "HAIL", WHICH WAS A GREETING OF THAT DAY THAT MEANS "REJOICE" OR "BE GLAD."**

*** THEN HE CALLS HER A "FAVORED ONE" OR A "HIGHLY FAVORED ONE" DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.**

**** AND THIS STATEMENT AND V. 30 HAVE BEEN GREATLY MISINTERPRETED DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, COMMUNICATING THINGS ABOUT MARY THAT ARE NOT TRUE LEADING SOME TO WORSHIP HER AND EVEN PRAY TO HER.**

***** BUT THESE WORDS IN VV. 28&30 ARE NOT PRAISING MARY FOR HER INHERENTLY VIRTUOUS, GODLY OR WORTHY CHARACTER - AND OBVIOUSLY SHE WAS A SPECIAL YOUNG WOMAN.**

****** BUT THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE TO HER SIMPLY WAS THAT GOD HAD FREELY CHOSEN TO GIVE GRACE TO HER, THAT IS WHAT MADE HER FAVORED AND BLESSED.**

1. BELOVED, MARY WAS UNWORTHY IN HER OWN STRENGTH. IN FACT, SHE WAS A SINNER AND NEEDED A SAVIOR HERSELF ACCORDING TO **LUKE 1:47 WHERE THE PHRASE "GOD MY SAVIOR" IS USED** – AS MARY EXALTS THE LORD.

* AND MARY WAS JUST LIKE YOU AND ME, A SINNER, SHE HAD NO GRACE TO DISPENSE, BECAUSE SHE NEEDED THE SAVING GRACE ONLY GOD CAN GIVE.

** THEREFORE, SHE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF GRACE, NOT THE SOURCE OR BESTOWER OF IT.

*** FOR UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORDS **"FAVORED ONE" OR "HIGHLY FAVORED ONE" IS ONE WORD IN THE GREEK.**

**** AND THIS PARTICULAR VERB IS USED IN ONLY ONE OTHER PLACE IN THE N.T., IN EPHESIANS 1:6.

2. AND EPHESIANS 1:6 SAYS: "TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHICH HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN THE BELOVED."

* NOW HERE IN EPH. 1:6, THIS VERB IS **TRANSLATED "FREELY BESTOWED" IN THE NAS, "FREELY GIVEN" IN THE NIV, "HAS OR HATH MADE US ACCEPTED" IN THE NKJV AND KJV AND "BLESSED US" IN THE ESV.**

** AND THE ROOT WORD THAT THIS VERB IS DERIVED FROM IS CHAR-ECE OUR ENGLISH WORD GRACE.

*** AND IT **BASICALLY MEANS "FULL OF GRACE" IN LUKE 1:28, "ENDOWED WITH GRACE".**

**** IN OTHER WORDS, MARY HAD FREELY RECEIVED GRACE. SHE WAS A CHOSEN VESSEL OF GOD TO BE USED AND BLESSED BY HIM BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE.

3. MARY WAS SPECIALLY GRACED, SHE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF DIVINE FAVOR.

* AND BECAUSE OF THAT AT THE END OF V. 28 GABRIEL **SAYS, "THE LORD IS WITH YOU".**

**** SO GABRIEL'S DECLARATION TO MARY IS ONE OF GOD'S SPECIAL FAVOR AND HIS SPECIAL PRESENCE.**

*** AND IF YOU HAVE A KJV OR NKJV, THE FINAL PHRASE IN V. 28 BLESSED ARE YOU OR THOU AMONG WOMEN IS FOUND.

**** **NOW YOU'LL NOT FIND THIS PHRASE IN THE NAS OR THE NIV OR THE ESV BECAUSE THEY ARE TRANSLATED FROM AN OLDER MANUSCRIPT FAMILY.**

4. FOR THIS PHRASE IS NOT IN THE EARLY **GREEK MANUSCRIPTS. AND I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO TEXTUAL CRITICISM TODAY BECAUSE I NEED TO MOVE ON – BUT WANTED YOU TO BE AWARE OF THAT. LOOK AT V. 29 PLEASE.**

D. READ V. 29. **NOW GABRIEL'S APPEARANCE DID NOT SHAKE MARY AS MUCH AS DID THE NATURE OF HIS WORDS.**

* FOR THE LIT. SENSE IS THAT MARY KEPT PONDERING THE MEANING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. SHE WAS DISTURBED, CONFUSED AND PERPLEXED.

** THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD WERE ON HER AND WITH HER WAS AMAZING.

*** I MEAN AS SHE PONDERED **GABRIEL'S** ANNOUNCEMENT, MARY VERY WELL MAY HAVE **ASKED HERSELF OVER AND OVER, "WHY WOULD GOD EVER WANT TO CHOOSE ME, AN UNWORTHY SINNER, TO BE THE RECIPIENT OF HIS AMAZING GRACE?"**

**** **"WHY WOULD THE LORD SINGLE OUT ME FOR SUCH SPECIAL PRIVILEGE?"** (LIKE US FOR SALVATION)

1. AND TO HER, WHAT THE ANGEL SAID WAS STAGGERING, NOTHING ON EARTH COULD HAVE PREPARED HER FOR SUCH A BREATH-TAKING OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

* AND BEGINNING IN V. 30, GABRIEL WILL START TO GIVE MARY THE DETAILS, THE MESSAGE OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT, **OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, GABRIEL'S ANNUNCIATION, LOOK AT V. 30** PLEASE.

II. **GABRIEL'S ANNUNCIATION**, (READ V. 30)

A. NOW UP TO THIS POINT, GABRIEL HAD TOLD MARY NOTHING OF HIS MISSION. BUT NOW CAME THE ANNUNCIATION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT ITSELF, AND THE INITIAL WORDS ARE SHOCKING.

*** SO HE BEGINS WITH "DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY."**

** FOR WHAT FOLLOWS IS AMAZING, THE NEWS WOULD BE LIKE A THUNDERBOLT.

*** AND IN THE FIRST PART OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT, GABRIEL REMINDS MARY THAT SHE HAS FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD.

**** AND THE WORD FAVOR IS THE GREEK WORD KHAR-ECE WHICH AGAIN MEANS GRACE.

1. AND HERE GABRIEL REMINDS MARY THAT GOD HAS BESTOWED HIS GRACE ON HER. GOD AFFIRMED THAT HE HAD EXTENDED HIS GRACE TO MARY FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN IT SUITED HIS GOOD PLEASURE AND PERFECT PLAN.

*** THE ISSUE WAS NOT MARY'S INDIVIDUAL WORTHINESS OR HUMAN MERIT, IT WAS GOD'S SOVEREIGN GRACE AND CHOICE.**

** MARY DO NOT BE AFRAID, DO NOT FEAR, AS A RESULT OF MY MESSAGE TO YOU, GOD HAS BESTOWED HIS FAVOR ON YOU. YOU ARE A CHOSEN VESSEL.

*** AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT GETS VERY SPECIFIC IN V. 31. LOOK AT V. 31 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 31. NOW HERE IS THE GIST OF THE **ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO MARY. "YOU ARE GOING TO BECOME PREGNANT; AND YOU ARE GOING TO CALL YOUR SON'S NAME JESUS."**

* NOW THE WORD JESUS LIT. MEANS JEHOVAH IS SALVATION OR SAVIOR. SO MARY, YOU ARE **GOING TO CALL YOUR SON'S NAME SALVATION!**

** AND THIS VERSE REMINDS US OF WHAT AN ANGEL TOLD JOSEPH IN MATTHEW 1:21 WHERE IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

*** **AND THE NAME OF MARY'S SON ACTUALLY** COMMUNICATES HIS PURPOSE IN COMING TO **PLANET EARTH, "TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS" – PRAISE GOD.**

**** LUKE 2:11 SAYS (QUOTE IT AND ALSO LUKE 19:10).

1. SO THE SAVIOR IS COMING TO SAVE - JESUS, AND THIS GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT CONTINUES TO BUILD IN V. 32. LOOK AT V. 32 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 32. NOW WE USE THE WORD GREAT IN REFERENCE TO ALL KINDS OF THINGS TODAY.

*** LIKE "HAVE A GREAT DAY" OR "THAT WOULD BE GREAT" OR "THAT WAS A GREAT GAME, "A GREAT MUSICIAN" OR "HE IS A GREAT FOOTBALL PLAYER", ETC.**

**** AND GREAT IS A GREAT WORD! AND THIS WORD PERFECTLY DESCRIBES THE SON OF MAN; "HE WILL BE GREAT".**

***** GREAT MEANING "EXTRAORDINARY" OR "SPLENDID" OR "MAGNIFICENT" OR "NOBLE" OR "DISTINGUISHED" OR "POWERFUL" AND "EMINENT".**

****** AND ALL THOSE ADJECTIVES GIVE US A GLIMPSE OF THE SON OF GOD WHO WOULD BE GREAT!**

1. BUT NOT ONLY WILL HE BE CALLED GREAT, BUT ALSO WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF "THE MOST HIGH" OR "SON OF THE HIGHEST".

* AND HIGHEST WAS SIMPLY A TITLE FOR GOD, CLEARLY INDICATING THAT NOBODY IS HIGHER THAN HE IS.

** AND MARY AND OTHER JEWS WERE FAMILIAR WITH THAT TITLE BECAUSE IT IS USED THROUGHOUT THE O.T.

*** IN FACT, THE HEBREW EQUIVILANT OF THE GREEK TERM USED BY LUKE IS ONE THAT SOME OF YOU **KNOW "EL ELYON – GOD MOST HIGH"**.

**** AND THAT TITLE REFERS **TO GOD'S** SOVEREIGNTY AND THE FACT THAT NO ONE IS HIGHER, MORE EXALTED, OR MORE POWERFUL THAN HE IS.

2. BUT ALSO IN V. 32 IT SAYS: "AND THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID."

*** AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET INTO A LOT OF** ESCHATOLOGY, THINGS TO COME TODAY, BUT IT BASICALLY MEANS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND IS A KING, A DESCENDENT OF KING DAVID.

** FOR IN II SAMUEL 7:12-16, GOD TOLD DAVID HE WOULD HAVE A SON WHO WOULD REIGN FOREVER AND THAT SON WAS NOT SOLOMON, BUT THE MESSIAH JESUS, AS CONFIRMED BY THE GENEALOGY IN MATTHEW 1 AND LUKE 3.

*** AND ONE DAY WE BELIEVE JESUS WILL LIT. RULE AND REIGN ON EARTH SITTING ON THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID, QUOTE ISAIAH 9:6.

ISAIAH 9:7 - **"THERE WILL BE NO END TO THE INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT OR OF PEACE, ON THE THRONE OF DAVID AND OVER HIS KINGDOM, TO ESTABLISH IT AND TO UPHOLD IT WITH JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THEN ON AND FOREVERMORE. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS."**

**** AND ULTIMATELY THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST WILL HAVE NO END, IT STARTS WITH A THOUSAND YEAR REIGN AND MERGES, TRANSITIONS INTO AN ETERNAL KINGDOM, FOR LOOK AT V. 33 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 33. NOW AT THIS POINT, I CAN KIND **OF HEAR HANDEL'S HALLELUJAH CHORUS** IN THE BACKGROUND, AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER AND THE REPETITIONS THAT FOLLOW.

* FOR CHRIST WILL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB, OVER ISRAEL, WHICH EMPHASIZES THE JEWISH CHARACTER OF THE MILLENIAL KINGDOM AND THE ETERNAL PERMANENCE OF **CHRIST'S RULE OVER ALL**.

** FOR HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END.

*** **NOW MARY'S RESPONSE TO ALL THIS** INFORMATION GIVEN TO HER BY GABRIEL LEADS HER TO ASK A QUESTION OF HIM IN V. 34. LOOK AT V. 34 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 34. **NOW MARY'S QUESTION IS NOT** ONE OF UNBELIEF ASKING FOR A SIGN LIKE ZACHARIAS, SO SHE CAN BELIEVE ALL OF THIS STUFF, IT IS A QUESTION ASKING FOR LIGHT, **IT'S ASKED OUT OF WONDER, SHE NEEDED ENLIGHTENED.**

* MARY WONDERED, HOW CAN I HAVE A BABY WHEN I HAVE NEVER KNOWN A MAN SEXUALLY, **I'M A VIRGIN? HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?**

** THE QUESTION WAS BIOLOGICAL, GABRIEL, HOW IS GOD GOING TO DO THIS? HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

*** WELL, GABRIEL WILL ANSWER HER QUESTION, HOW IS IT POSSIBLE BEGINNING IN V. **35, WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR THIRD AND LAST POINT TODAY, GABRIEL'S ANSWER.** LOOK AT V. 35 PLEASE.

III. GABRIEL'S ANSWER, (READ V. 35)

A. NOW V. 35 IS A PROFOUND AMAZING VERSE FILLED WITH TRUTH ABOUT HOW JESUS WAS **CONCEIVED IN A VIRGIN'S WOMB BYPASSING ANY SEXUAL ACTIVITY.**

* AND FIRST OF ALL, THIS MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION WOULD COME ABOUT THROUGH THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD COME UPON HER, AS MATTHEW 1:18 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

** AND THERE ARE NO SEXUAL OVERTONES IN MATTHEW 1:18 OR HERE IN LUKE, FOR THE **NEXT PHRASE IN V. 35 SAYS: "THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU."**

***** AND THE WORD "OVERSHADOW" GIVES US**
THE PROPER UNDERSTANDING BECAUSE IT IS
USED IN THE GREEK O.T., THE SEPTUAGANT, TO
DESCRIBE GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE SANCTUARY
OF THE TABERNACLE AND THEN IN THE N.T. FOR
HIS OVERSHADOWING PRESENCE AT THE
TRANSFIGURATION WHEN THE **CLOUD OF GOD'S**
PRESENCE OVERSHADOWED OUR LORD AND
PETER, JAMES AND JOHN.

****** WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GLORY OF GOD,**
THE PRESENCE OF GOD, THE SHEKINAH OF GOD.

1. AND BELOVED, MARY'S WOMB BECAME A
HOLY OF HOLIES FOR THE SON OF GOD.

*** THE GLORY OF GOD'S** PRESENCE DESCENDED
UPON MARY AND ENVELOPED, SURROUNDED
HER AND A CHILD WAS CONCEIVED IN HER
WOMB BY THE POWER OF GOD.

**** AND IT'S NO WONDER THAT IN THE REST OF**
V. 35, THE ANGEL SAYS, "AND FOR THAT
REASON THE HOLY OFFSPRING SHALL BE
CALLED THE SON OF GOD."

***** MARY'S OFFSPRING WOULD BE HOLY,**
SINLESS, NO SIN NATURE WAS PASSED ON
THROUGH A SON OF ADAM LIKE JOSEPH.

**** HER OFFSPRING WAS HOLY, BECAUSE THE
HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED UPON HER AND
THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD EMPREGNATED
HER, BECAUSE OF THAT HER CHILD WOULD BE
THE HOLY SON OF GOD!! WHAT A MIRACLE, NO
SEXUAL EXPERIENCE WAS A PART OF THE
CONCEPTION - LIKE IN MYTHOLOGY WHERE
PAGAN DEITIES CO-HABITATED WITH A WOMAN.
THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH OVER
SHADOWED HER.

2. AND THE ANGEL WILL POINT TO ANOTHER
MIRACLE OF HUMAN CONCEPTION TO REMIND
HER THAT ALL OF THIS IS COMING TOGETHER IN
THE PLAN OF GOD. LOOK AT V. 36 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 36. NOW GABRIEL CITES THE
PREGNANCY OF ELIZABETH, A RELATIVE OF
MARY'S, AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GOD'S
POWER, AS KIND OF AN AFFIRMATION.

* FOR ELIZABETH WAS OLD AND WAS BARREN AS WE SAW LAST WEEK. BUT GOD WILL GIVE HER A MIRACLE CHILD, JOHN THE BAPTIZER.

** AND GABRIEL REMINDS MARY THAT ELIZABETH WAS NOW IN HER 6TH MONTH OF PREGNANCY. AND WHAT A MIRACLE THAT WAS. NOT AS GREAT AS HER MIRACLE AS A VIRGIN, BUT NONETHELESS, A MIRACLE.

*** WHICH IS NO BIG DEAL FOR GOD, FOR LOOK AT V. 37 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 37. NOW WHAT A GREAT TRUTH. GABRIEL IS SPEAKING TO MARY AND SAYS: **MARY, ELIZABETH'S** PREGNANCY LOOKED IMPOSSIBLE AND SHE IS PREGNANT, AND YOU HAVING A BABY WITHOUT A HUMAN FATHER IS IMPOSSIBLE - YES.

* BUT MARY, REALIZE, NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD! HE IS ABLE TO DO WHATEVER HE WISHES FOR WHATEVER HE WILLS IS RIGHT, BECAUSE OF HIS HOLY CHARACTER.

** WHATEVER GOD WILLS IN HIS HOLINESS, HE CAN DO, HE HAS THE POWER.

*** AND THE VERSE REMINDS US OF GEN. 18:14A WHICH SAYS IN THE CONTEXT OF SARAH HAVING A BABY WHEN SHE WAS PAST **CHILDBIRTH AGE, "IS ANYTHING TOO DIFFICULT FOR THE LORD?"**

**** AND LUKE 1:37 ALSO REMINDS ME OF JEREMIAH 32:17&27 WHERE IT SAYS: (QUOTE THEM).

1. SO NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD, NOT EVEN A VIRGIN HAVING A CHILD WHO WILL BE THE HOLY SON OF GOD.

* **AND MARY'S RESPONSE** IS AMAZING IN V. 38. LOOK AT V. 38 PLEASE, OUR LAST VERSE FOR TODAY.

D. READ V. 38. **NOW IN V. 38 MARY'S HEART AND ATTITUDE IS TO SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL BY FAITH.**

* DID MARY UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS AS A 12 **OR 13 YEAR OLD YOUNG WOMAN? I DON'T** THINK SO BUT BY FAITH AS A BONDSLAVE OF THE LORD, SHE SUBMITS TO HER MASTER.

** BELOVED, SUBMISSION AND FAITH IS THE HEART OF MARY. SHE GRACIOUSLY AND WILLINGLY SUBMITTED TO THE WILL OF GOD BY FAITH. MAY THE WILL OF GOD BE DONE AND GABRIEL THEN DEPARTS FROM HER, HER RESPONSE IS, MAY THE WILL OF GOD BE DONE.

*** AND I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE FAITH OF MARY HERE. FOR TO ACCEPT THE VIRGIN BIRTH, MARY HAD TO BE WILLING TO GIVE UP ALMOST EVERYTHING SHE KNEW AND LOVED.

**** SHE HAD TO BE WILLING TO GIVE UP JOSEPH, THE MAN SHE WAS BETROTHED TO MARRY. FOR HOW COULD HE CONSENT TO TAKE MARY AS HIS WIFE IF SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH A CHILD THAT WAS NOT HIS OWN.

1. AND THEN MARY HAD TO GIVE UP HER REPUTATION. I MEAN IMAGINE THE GOSSIP IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE NAZARETH.

* AND THEN WHEN THE CHILD WOULD BE BORN, SOME WOULD CALL HER SON, TO USE A BIBLICAL WORK IN THE KJV A BASTARD.

** AND THEN SOME MIGHT EVEN SAY THAT SHE DESERVED TO DIE, BECAUSE THE LAW OF GOD ALLOWED FOR THE DEATH PENALTY WHENEVER A WOMAN WHO WAS BETROTHED WAS CONVICTED OF ADULTERY IN DEUTERONOMY 22:23&24.

*** BUT THERE WOULD BE OTHER TRIALS AHEAD FOR MARY. ALL THE PHYSICAL PAINS THAT WENT WITH PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH, HER LIFE WOULD CHANGE DRASTICALLY PHYSICALLY AS A 12 TO 13 YEAR OLD GIRL.

**** THEN THERE WOULD BE OTHER TRIALS THAT SHE COULD NOT PREDICT LIKE THE TRIP TO BETHLEHEM, THE EXILE IN EGYPT, THE HATRED OF HEROD.

2. BUT THE GREATEST SUFFERING CAME WHEN JESUS GREW TO BE A MAN AND BEGAN TO FULFILL HIS MINISTRY. HE WOULD BE ON A COLLISION COURSE TO DEATH AND SHE WOULD HAVE TO ENDURE HIS ARREST, HIS TRIAL, HIS CRUCIFIXION AND BLOODY BURIAL.

* AND THIS IS WHAT IT MEANT FOR MARY TO **SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL BY FAITH BY SAYING, I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, LET ME DO YOUR WILL AS YOU HAVE SAID.**

IN APPLICATION AS I START TO FINISH UP, (1)
HOW COULD MARY SAY WHAT SHE SAID IN V. 38, IN ESSENCE **GOD'S WILL BE DONE?**

* THE ANSWER IS MARY DID IT BY FAITH. SHE TRUSTED GOD FOR ALL OF IT, HER RELATIONSHIP WITH JOSEPH, HER REPUTATION IN TOWN, HER PHYSICAL SUFFERINGS AND THE HEARTACHE OF HER SOUL.

**** MARY BELIEVED IN GOD'S WILL AND FOLLOWED HIM WITH TRUSTING OBEDIENCE.**

*** AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN PRACTICE.

**** AND LET ME SUGGEST IN A SENSE, MARY WAS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN. FOR A TRUE CHRISTIAN IS SIMPLY A PERSON WHO BELIEVES **IN JESUS AND SAYS AS A RESULT, "BEHOLD I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, LET IT BE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD AND WILL."**

(2) AND THAT MEANS TRUSTING GOD'S HIGHER WAYS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS, NOT TRYING TO MAKE THEM GO THE WAY WE WANT THEM TO. IT MEANS TRUSTING GOD IN OUR WORK, ALLOWING HIM TO SEE OUR FAITHFULNESS AND HARD WORK WHEN WE ARE NOT REWARDED. IT MEANS TRUSTING GOD IN MINISTRY, BEING CONTENT WITH WHATEVER BLESSING HE **BRINGS, OR DOESN'T BRING, AS LONG AS WE ARE FAITHFUL.**

* IT MEANS TRUSTING GOD FOR OUR FAMILIES, ASKING HIM TO CARRY OUR BURDEN FOR THE PEOPLE WE LOVE.

** IT MEANS TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR TROUBLES – THE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS WE HAVE TO FACE.

*** AND IT MEANS TO TRUST GOD WHEN WE SUFFER REPROACH, AS MARY WOULD. FOR IF WE FOLLOW GOD, THEN PEOPLE WILL BE AS OPPOSED TO US AS THEY ARE TO HIM, BUT BY HIS GRACE AND FAITH, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIM.

**** AND I GUESS THE GREAT QUESTION TODAY **IS, ARE YOU WILLING TO BE GOD'S SERVANT IN ALL THESE AREAS AND VENUES?**

(3) THEN WE MUST SURRENDER OUR WILL AND SUBMIT TO HIS WORD. TO GIVE UP CONTROL, PUTTING THINGS INTO HIS HANDS RATHER THAN BENDING THEM TO OUR OWN WILL AND PURPOSES.

* WE NEED TO LIVE FOR THE LORD, REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHERS THINK.

**** BY GOD'S GRACE, MAY WE SAY AS MARY SAID, HAVE YOUR OWN WAY LORD, I AM YOUR SERVANT, READY TO DO YOUR WILL. (LET'S PRAY)**