

Episode #451 Christmas Messages 4: Mary and Elizabeth

I. The birth of Christ was a miraculous event that prepared the way for all that He would accomplish in His death, burial, and resurrection. At this time of year we remember that birth and the glorious salvation that God gave us as a result.

II. Luke 1:30-33. The angel's message.

- A. Verse 32. Just because He is given this throne does not mean He has to sit on it Himself. He emptied Himself, Philippians 2:5-9. Now on God's throne, Mark 16:19. Ezekiel 34:24, He will give it back to David, the one he gave it to the first time!
- B. Verse 33. His government is for the eon, and has no end. "End" not in time, but in border. His kingdom will cover the globe!

III. Luke 1:34-37. Mary's virginity.

- A. Verse 34. She had not had sexual relations with a man. "Know" = by experience. Notice that her response is not of disbelief, but a desire for information.
- B. Verse 35. *Pneuma hagion* = power not Person of the Spirit. Holy power would cause this pregnancy. Because of this power, the Holy Child will be the Son of God.
- C. Verse 36. Elizabeth is an example of God's power. "Relative" = *sungenes*, kinswoman.
- D. Verse 37. Nothing is impossible for God! Nothing = none of all sayings. Whatever He says, He is able to accomplish.

IV. Luke 1:38-45. Mary's response.

- A. Verse 38. She calls herself a *doule* or slave of the Lord. She responds in faith, in spite of the terrible price she would have to pay. This was brave!
- B. Verses 39-40. She does act to guard her reputation by visiting her godly aunt and uncle to conceive there. Luke 1:6, they had an impeccable reputation.
- C. Verse 41. The baby John leaps in Elizabeth's womb! No doubt the baby and his mother were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit here. Greek = *pneuma hagion*, spirit holy. Without "the," it indicates the power of the Spirit.
- D. Verses 42-45. Elizabeth blesses (speaks well of) Mary. It must have relieved to Mary to have a confidant.

V. Luke 1:46-55. Mary's magnificat.

- A. Verses 46-47. She regards God as her Savior. Mary needs a Savior like everyone else!
- B. Verses 48. She regards herself as a slave of God. Yet God has regarded her, and so will all generations.
- C. Verses 49-50. God has done mighty things for her, yet through His mercy.
- D. Verses 51-53. God had exalted a lowly maiden like her. When the kingdom comes, He will do this literally.
- E. Verses 54-55. All that God does is according to His promises to Israel's fathers.

VI. Luke 1:56. Mary's three month stay.

- A. She helps Elizabeth through her third trimester, while her own pregnancy begins.
- B. She returns home, trusting God to take care of her, especially with Joseph!

VII. The mother of our Lord Jesus Christ was a most remarkable young lady. She bravely agreed to carry the Lord Jesus Christ in spite of the shame and danger this would put her in. She went to her relative Elizabeth, whom the Lord prepared to receive her and made a confidant for her. Mary worked to guard her reputation as best she could. She is in many ways a great example for us. May all the Lord's young ladies be as Godly as Mary was!