

**Luke 1:**

<sup>7</sup>They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. -----**ELIZABETH ("GOD IS MY OATH")**

<sup>8</sup>One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. -----**ZACHARIAS ("JEHOVAH HAS REMEMBERED")**

**God often uses His people while they are busy doing their daily tasks. Both Moses and David were caring for sheep, and Gideon was threshing wheat. Peter and his partners were mending nets when Jesus called them. When we get busy, God starts to direct us. Age, gender, race, education, background is NO excuse.**

<sup>13</sup>But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.

**John ("Jehovah is gracious"). Dedicate him to God, Nazarite all of his life (Num. 6:1-21). Filled with the Spirit before birth (Luke 1:41); will both prophesy and introduce Jesus to the world. (John 1:15-34); will turn many people back to the Lord, (Isa. 40:1-5).**

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years."

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!

**Luke mentions "angels" 23 times. There are innumerable angels (Rev. 5:11), only 2 of which are actually named in Scripture: Michael (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7) and Gabriel (Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26).**

<sup>20</sup>But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

**Unbelief is something God does not accept. Zacharias was really questioning God's ability to fulfill His own Word! Had he forgotten what God did for Abraham and Sarah? (Gen. 18:9-15; Rom. 4:18-25) Did he think that his physical limitations would hinder Almighty God? Zacharias was struck dumb (and possibly deaf, Luke 1:62)**

<sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.

**JESUS ("JEHOVAH IS SALVATION") Matt. 1:21 (KJV)<sup>21</sup>And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

<sup>32</sup>He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

<sup>33</sup>And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

**Mary: She was a Jew; tribe of Judah, a descendant of David, and a virgin (Isa. 7:14). She was engaged to a carpenter in Nazareth named Joseph (Matt. 13:55), and apparently both of them were poor (Lev. 12:8; Luke 2:24). Among the Jews at that time, engagement was almost as binding as marriage and could be broken only by divorce. In fact, the man and the woman were called "husband" and "wife" even before the marriage took place (compare Matt. 1:19 and Luke 2:5). Since Jewish girls married young, it is likely that Mary was a teenager when the angel appeared to her.**

<sup>34</sup>Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

<sup>35</sup>The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

## The tale of the two “doubters”

<sup>18</sup>**ZECHARIAH SAID TO THE ANGEL, “HOW CAN I BE SURE THIS WILL HAPPEN?”**

<sup>34</sup>**MARY ASKED THE ANGEL, “BUT HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN? I AM A VIRGIN.”**

(i.e. what will be the process, since it won't be thru normal channels because I am a virgin)

Zack: How? It is impossible to do this!!!

Mary: How? I'm excited to hear the details!!!

- Luke 1:18 -The remarkable thing is that Zacharias asks exactly the same question that Abraham asked in Gen 15:8\*, and yet that the two questions are not treated alike. Abraham believed (Gen 15:6), but Zacharias did not
- "Gabriel = "man of God." The same angel mentioned in Daniel 8:16.
- The question as well as the answer it receives indicate no unbelief on Mary's part. She is not like Zacharias but, in a way, like Nicodemus who also asked "how," namely about the new birth. What perplexes Mary is the fact that she is to even have a child, much less a son...THE Son of God.
- With "how" she asks for some explanation, and with "since" she states the reason for her perplexity, namely that she "knows not a man," a typical Jewish way of stating her virginity.
- Mary knew what would happen, but she did not know how it would happen. Her question in Luke 1:34 was not an evidence of unbelief (Luke 1:18); rather, it was an expression of faith.
- She believed the promise, but she did not understand the performance. How could a virgin give birth to a child?

**\*GEN 15:8 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup>**BUT ABRAM REPLIED, “O SOVEREIGN LORD, HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I WILL ACTUALLY POSSESS IT?”**

## **Monday Morning Moment**

**“Just believing God is a blessing in itself”** THERE IS NOTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD (JER. 32:17)

- Luke 1:37 - For nothing is impossible with God.
- Luke 1:45 - You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.

## **Last week's MMM:**

God accomplishes His purposes through the power of His Word

“For no word of God shall be void of power.” (Ps. 33:9 - 1901 American Standard Version).