

## **Luke 1:26-38 – The Visit of Gabriel to Mary**

We are studying Luke's "good news". The good news is that God the Son came to earth, and died and rose to save sinners. He came as one of us, to save us. In this passage, his birth was announced. How was it announced? The answer is very surprising.

### **1. God's ways are not man's ways (v26-30)**

God sent his angel, Gabriel. But he did not come to the capital, Jerusalem – to the leaders, high priest, or rulers. He came to Galilee, a region in the north of Israel that was not highly thought of (John 1:46). He came to a single and poor Jewish girl, Mary, who was pledged to be married. God knew her by name, v30. He passed by the great and mighty, and visited her. He called her, "favoured one" (verse 28). This is the true God – he passes by the great and mighty who are proud, but comes to the poor and humble who fear him (Isaiah 57:15). This is the one he chose to bring his Son into the world. Mary was afraid; she knew she did not deserve this grace. But she did not need to be afraid; God is full of mercy. It was the proud leaders in Jerusalem who needed to fear the coming of God's Son. So, we see that God notices all of us, and all we do (Psalm 139).

### **2. Jesus is a true man, born of a virgin**

The angel told Mary she would conceive, and have a son. He used the words of Isaiah 7:14, showing from that prophecy that this son would be the Messiah. Jesus is a true man, who was born of a woman with a real human nature. He ate, he wept and he slept, just like us. He had to be a true man, to die for the sins of men: man had sinned, so man had to pay the price. He had to be a true man to be our representative with God. He was no ordinary man; he was born of a virgin, with no human father. He was born without a sinful, fallen nature, inherited from Adam. He was not under God's curse or wrath as we are born (John 3:36). Now, he is at God's right hand in heaven, ready to save us – have you trusted in him?

### **3. Jesus is the everlasting God, Lord and Saviour**

Jesus is not only man. He is God, from heaven (John 1:1, Hebrews 1:8). He is God the Son, who will reign forever. He is not half man, half God, but fully both. He is not a mix, or blend. He is fully human with a true body and soul; and fully God from eternity with the same nature as the Father. He is not two persons, but one – God and man. He is also the Lord, who will rule forever. His kingdom will only grow. Have you bowed to him, as Lord? He is also the Saviour; "Jesus" means "Saviour". He uses his mighty power to save. He delivers his people from Satan, death and hell. Have you joined his kingdom?

### **4. The right response is to believe, and be saved**

Mary asked how this could all be. She did not ask from unbelief, like Zechariah (1:18-20), but from humble inquiry. Gabriel did not give a deep explanation, but told her the main truth: God can do all things by the power of his own Spirit. Mary made the right response: believed and submitted. How do you respond?