



Title | Astonishing Christmas
Series | So You Can Know For Sure
Text | Luke 1:26-56
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-- the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. **39** In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, **40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." **46** And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48** for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **50** And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **51** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52** he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **54** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55** as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." **56** And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Luke 1:32-33 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16. This passage contains what is known as the Davidic Covenant. Now read Luke 1:26-33. Compare Luke 1:32-33 and 2 Samuel 7:16. What is the connection between Christmas and the Davidic Covenant?

Tuesday:

Read Genesis 12:1-3. This passage contains what is known as the Abrahamic Covenant. Now read Galatians 3:7, 16. What is the connection between Christmas and the Abrahamic Covenant?

Wednesday:

Have all the promises of the Davidic Covenant (in 2 Samuel 7:8-16) already been fulfilled? If not, when will they be fulfilled? (Hint: Read Hebrews 9:27-28.) How does this give us hope?

Thursday:

When we focus not on the problems we see but on the promises we trust, what difference does it make?

Friday:

Read Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55. Take a moment to write your own Magnificat, summarizing the astonishingly good things God has done and will do, beginning with the words, "My soul magnifies the Lord."

Daily Prayer:

Lord, thank you that Christmas is not just a figment of someone's imagination, but is grounded in human history and the fulfillment of divine promises that give us hope and peace. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.