

Who Was This Baby in a Manger?

(Luke 1:26-55)

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by 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. The virgin's name *was* Mary.

²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

³⁰ Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*"

³⁶ "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ "Blessed *is* she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth 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* on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones, And exalted *the* lowly. 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 seed forever."

Why? To review, remind, and refresh our thoughts about Jesus, Who is much more than a baby in a manger (and no longer that).

12 Descriptive Phrases

1. Human Son

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son" (31a)

2. Mankind's Savior

"and shall call His name JESUS." (31b)

3. Powerfully Influential

"He will be great" (32a)

4. Divine Son

"[He] will be called the Son of the Highest" (32b); "called the Son of God" (35c)

5. Davidic King

"the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." (32c)

6. Eternal Ruler

"And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (33)

7. Holy One

"also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." (35b)

8. Merciful Master

"And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation." (50)

9. Punitive Judge

"He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones" (51-52a)

10. Satisfying Provider

"He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty." (53)

11. Promise Keeper

"He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy" (54)

12. Prophetic Fulfillment

"As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever." (55)