

Christmas Special
Announcements of the Angels – Part 1
December 22, 2024

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Announcements of the Angels – Part 1

Christmas, 2024

To Zechariah, Luke 1:5–25;
To Mary, Luke 1:26–36;
To Joseph, Matthew 1:18–21



Portrait of Zacharias and Gabriel
James Tissot
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The Annunciation
Leonardo DaVinci
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The Vision of Joseph
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Portrait of Zacharias and Elizabeth
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Background:

Luke 1:1, “Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,

Luke 1:2, “just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,

Luke 1:3, “it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,

Luke 1:4, “that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”

Three things:

1. Luke's account was based on extensive interviews with the participants and eyewitnesses of the events.
2. Luke wrote to give us a "perfect understanding of all things;"
ἀκριβῶς *akribos*: "strict conformity to a standard, careful attention, accurately"
3. So we can know with certainty; ἀσφάλεια *aspháleia*: "the stability of an idea or statement, know something as true"

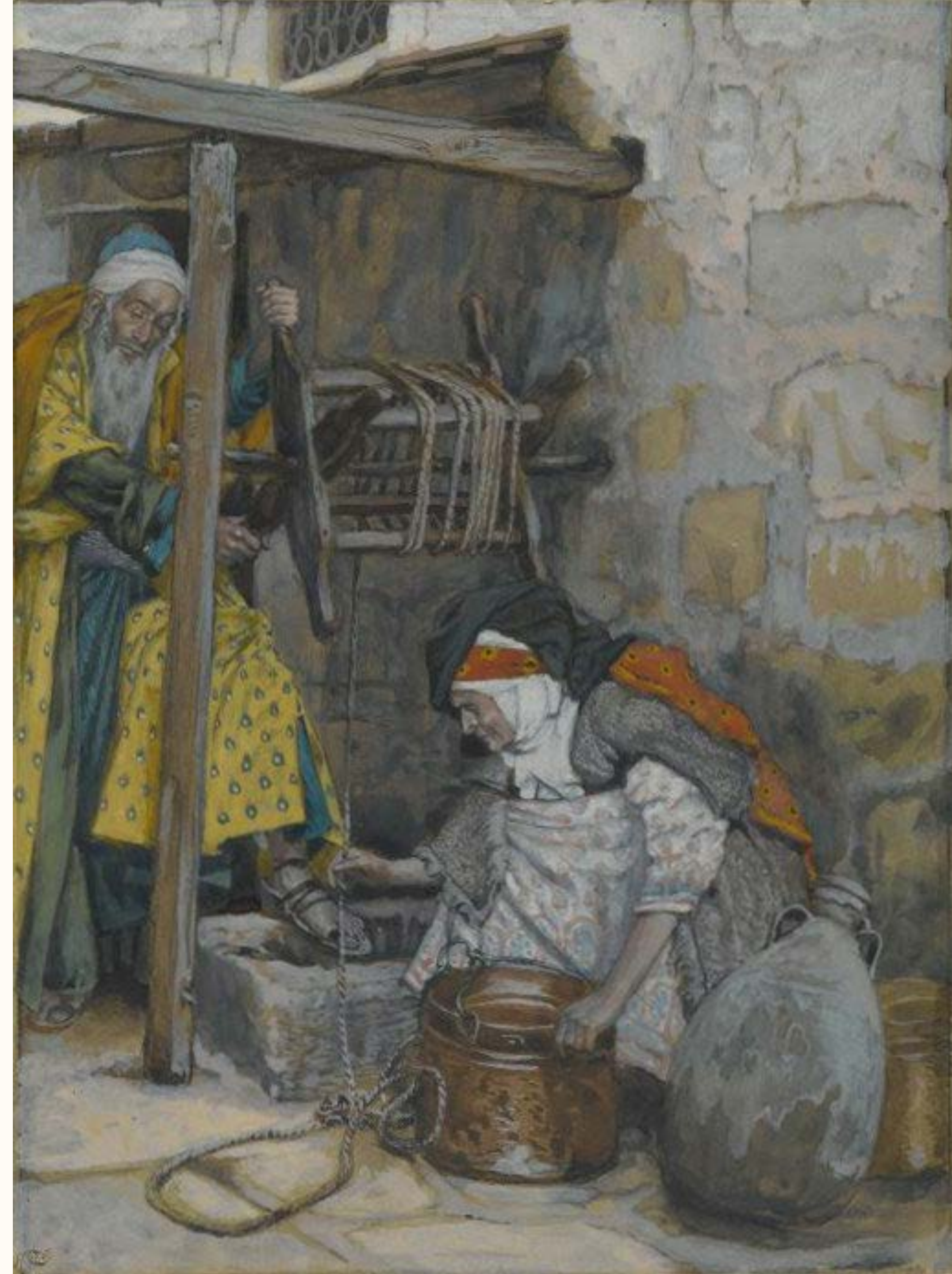
Main characters:

- **Zechariah**
- **Gabriel the angel**
- **Elisabeth (in the background)**

Luke 1:5, “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named **Zacharias**, of the division of **Abijah**. His wife was **of the daughters of Aaron**, and her name was **Elizabeth**.

Luke 1:6, “And they were **both righteous** before God, **walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless**.

Luke 1:7, “But **they had no child**, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both **well advanced in years**.”



Zechariah, father of John the Baptist:

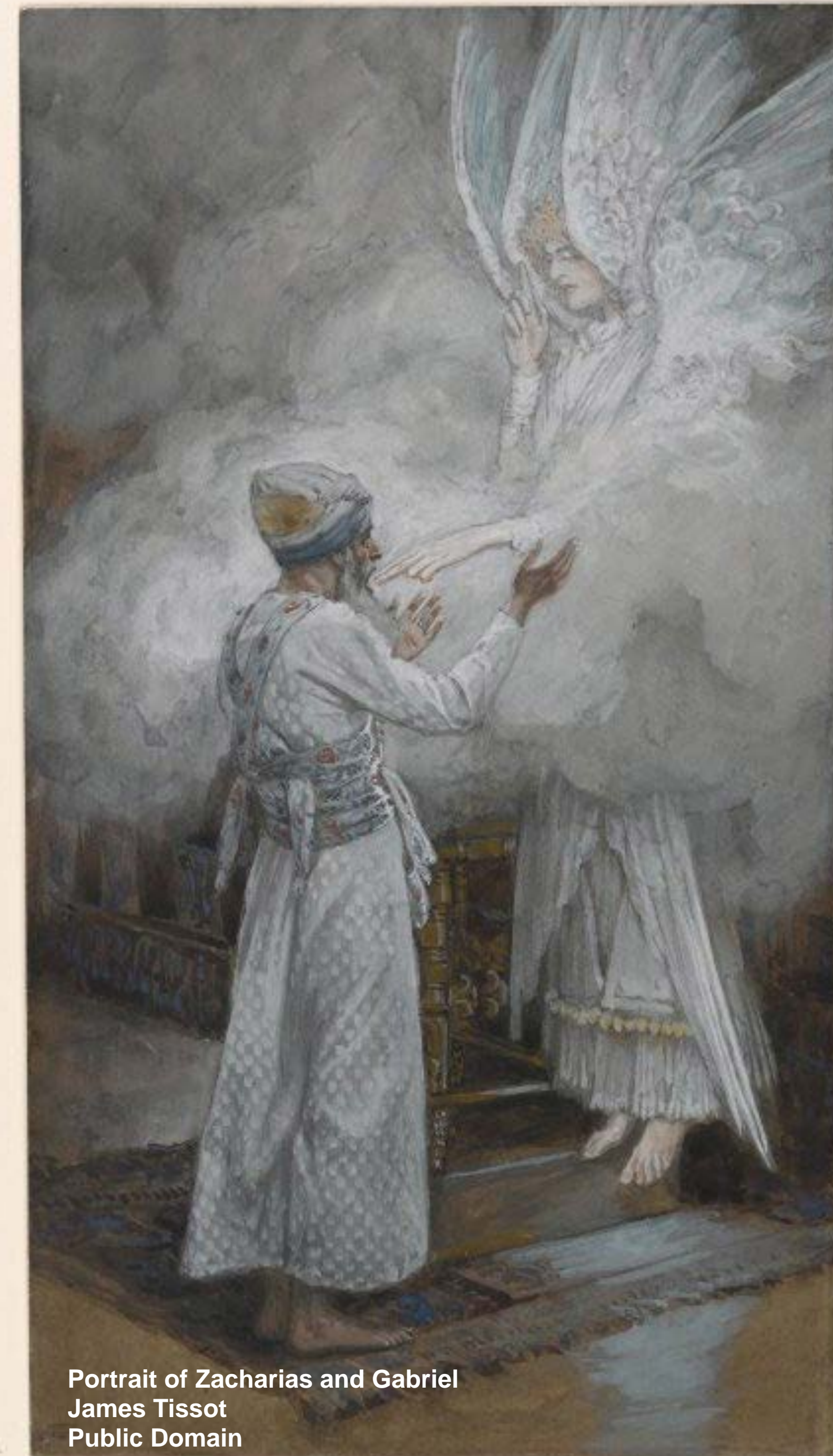
- **one of 18,000 Levitical priests**
- **from the course or division of Abijah**
- **probably the only time in his life he would serve like this in the Temple**
- **He and Elizabeth were beyond the age of 60, childless.**
- **They were believers with both positional justification and experientially blameless through the cleansing sacrifices of the Torah. (Gen. 15:6; Gal. 3:6–18)**



Portrait of Zacharias and Gabriel
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Luke 1:11, “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luke 1:12, “And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.” [NKJV]



Portrait of Zacharias and Gabriel
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Luke 1:13, “But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.’ ” [NKJV]

- 1. Don't be afraid! Used over 112× in the Bible, either as *do not be afraid* or *do not fear* or *fear not*.**
- 2. Your wife will bear a son.**
- 3. You will name him John.**

Luke 1:14, “ ‘And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.’ ” [NKJV]

4. You will have joy and gladness [exaltation].

5. Many will rejoice at his birth.

Luke 1:15, “ ‘For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink [barley beer]. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.’ ” [NKJV]

6. He will be great in the sight of the Lord.

Matt. 11:11, “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Luke 1:15, “ ‘For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink [barley beer]. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.’ ” [NKJV]

7. He will be similar to a Nazarene. He will not drink wine or beer [σίκερα *sikera* “beer” ~BDAG]. Nazarenes were also prohibited from cutting their hair, which is not said of John the Baptizer (Num. 6:2–8).

Luke 1:15, “ ‘For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink [barley beer]. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.’ ” [NKJV]

8. He will be “filled with the Holy Spirit” even **from His mother’s womb.**

Three points:

- a. The problem of confusing this with the command to “be filled by means of the Spirit” in Eph. 5:18. They are not the same word, and this is not in the Church Age. Filled here is *πίμπλημι pímplēmi*, which usually precedes the speaking of something. Similar to enduement in the Old Testament.**
- b. Debate about the meaning of “from His mother’s womb,”**
 - 1. Not in the womb, from the womb, 2. An idiom for either from birth, i.e., after birth, or from an early age, ~BDAG**

The major problem is that if this is some sort of filling inside of the womb, then it is the only example of someone not spiritually alive, someone spiritually dead, who has this kind of relationship with God. This negates this meaning as an option.
- c. The meaning is that from a young age God the Holy Spirit would speak through Him. I have a full study of these different words in Ephesians: Lesson 81.**

9. He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. This was to prepare a group of believers for the acceptance of the King.

ἐπιστρέφω *epistréphō*; ② to change direction, turn around

10. “He [John the Baptist] will go before Him [Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ], in the spirit and power of Elijah ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” [NKJV]

John the Baptist was not Elijah or a reincarnation of Elijah, but was to have a role like Elijah in his ministry to the remnant. The purpose of John’s role was to prepare a people for the arrival of the Messiah.

Zechariah's Reaction Showed a Lack of Trust.

Luke 1:18, “And Zacharias said to the angel, ‘How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.’ ” [NKJV]

Luke 1:19, “And the angel answered and said to him, ‘I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

Luke 1:20, “ ‘But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.’ ” [NKJV]

Conclusion:

Luke 1:21, “And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.

Luke 1:22, “But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

Luke 1:23, “So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house.

Luke 1:24, “Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying,

Luke 1:25, “ ‘Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.’ ” [NKJV]

Conclusion:

- **Zechariah failed to trust the message of God and endured divine discipline for over nine months of being mute.**
- **Prophecy was validated through the precise fulfillment of both the message of the birth, and the message of the discipline.**

The Second Angelic Appearance: The Announcement of the Pregnancy and Birth to Mary



The Annunciation
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The Annunciation
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Luke 1:26, “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luke 1:27, “to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

Luke 1:28, “And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’ ”
[NKJV]

The Announcement of the Birth (Luke 1:26–28)

- **Fits the pattern of four previous birth announcements in the Hebrew Scriptures: Ishmael (Gen. 16:7–14); Isaac (Gen. 17:15–22), Samson (Judges 13:2–23), Samuel (1 Samuel 1:9–20).**
- **Parallel to the previous announcement to Zechariah in Luke 1:5–25.**
- **Nazareth, though once a larger city of about 40,000, was now very small. Evidence that it was resettled by descendants of David following the Maccabean revolt.**
- **Betrothed to a man from the house of David, Joseph. The betrothal, a legally binding contract for about a year which did not involve sexual intimacy.**



The Annunciation
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The Angel's Greeting:

Luke 1:28, “And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’ ”
[NKJV]

kecharitōmenē

χαριτόω *charitoō* perf passive part fem
sing voc

to be gracious, favor, bestow on
freely; in the perfect passive one who
has already received a gracious
blessing from God.

Luke 1:29, “But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.
Luke 1:30, “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
Luke 1:31, “ ‘And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.
Luke 1:32, “ ‘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.
Luke 1:33, “ ‘And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’ ” [NKJV]



The Annunciation
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Six Statements of Gabriel to Mary

a. Like with Zechariah, “Do not be afraid you have found grace with God.”

Luke 1:30, “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.’ ” [NKJV]

χάρις charis

fem sing acc

grace, favor; undeserved

blessing

Six Statements of Gabriel to Mary

b. Mary as a virgin will conceive, this will be explained further in Luke 11:35.

Luke 1:31, “ ‘And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.’ ” [NKJV]

Prophetic fulfillment

Gen. 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Isa. 7:14, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you all [the House of David] a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel ‘God With Us’.”

Six Statements of Gabriel to Mary

c. She shall call His name Jesus.

Luke 1:31, “ ‘And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.’ ” [NKJV]

Miriam was to call Him “*Yeshua*.” His actual name comes from a Hebrew root that means “to save,” “salvation,” or “savior.” It is akin to the Hebrew word for “salvation,” *yeshuah*. As Joseph would also be told, the child was to have the name *Yeshua*. The same root is the origin of other names, such as Joshua, Isaiah, and Hosea.

[~Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Yeshua*, I.343]

“Yeshua,” because He would *yoshia*, save, His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).

Six Statements of Gabriel to Mary

d. The Son will be “great.”

Luke 1:32, “ ‘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.’ ”

He will be great because He is the One who will provide salvation for the world. Matt. 1:21.

Six Statements of Gabriel to Mary

e. He will be the Son of God, emphasis is on His undiminished, full deity.

Luke 1:32, “ ‘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.’ ”

Unlike John the Baptist who would be great in the sight of the Lord, Jesus is intrinsically great because He is the God-man, the Son of God.

Psa. 2:6, “[God the Father speaking] ‘Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.

Psa. 2:7, “ ‘I will declare the decree: The LORD [God the Father] has said to Me [the Anointed (*Messiach*)], “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” ’ ”

Six Statements of Gabriel to Mary

- f. He will fulfill the Davidic Covenant, the one who eternally sits on the throne of David [emphasizing His true humanity].

Luke 1:32, “ ‘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.’ ”

Psa. 2:6, “[God the Father speaking] ‘Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.

Psa. 2:7, “ ‘I will declare the decree: The LORD [God the Father] has said to Me [the Anointed (*Messiach*)], ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’ ”

1 Chron. 17:12, “ ‘He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.

1 Chron. 17:13, “ ‘I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

1 Chron. 17:14, “ ‘And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.’ ”

Mary then Asks:

Luke 1:34, “Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’

Luke 1:35, “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.’ ” [NKJV]

Mary does not question the truth as Zecharah did. She questions how because she is not yet married.

**Zechariah doubted and asked how it can be true.
Mary trusts but wants to know how it will happen.**

Mary then Asks:

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The Third Angelic Message: To Joseph

A message of comfort that the pregnancy of Mary was a miracle of God in fulfillment of prophecy.



The Vision of Joseph
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Matt. 1:18, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”



The Betrothal of Joseph and Mary
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Matt. 1:19, “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Matt. 1:20, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’ ”



The Vision of Joseph
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The Angel's Message

Matt. 1:20, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 1:21, “ ‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’

Matt. 1:22, “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

Matt. 1:23, “ ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’ ”

The Angel's Message

1. Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.

Matt. 1:20, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’ ”

The Angel's Message

2. Her conception is miraculous, from God through the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 1:20, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’ ”

The Angel's Message

2. Her conception is miraculous, from God through the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 1:20, “But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’ ”

Luke 1:35, “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.’ ” [NKJV]

The Angel's Message

3. He is to call the son, Yeshua, for He will save His people from their sins.

Matt. 1:21, “ ‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’ ”

Matt. 1:22, “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

Matt. 1:23, “ ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’ ”

Joseph's Response

Matt. 1:24, “Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

Matt. 1:25, “and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.”

Joseph's response: trust and obey