

A SAVIOR IS BORN
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Zechariah and Elizabeth are a part of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. 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." (Luke 1:39-45)



The visit by the angel Gabriel to Zechariah, who could not speak for nine months, the large crowd that saw him after he visited with Gabriel, and Elizabeth, expecting a child even at her age. Their child was John, the forerunner for Jesus. The beginning of God's plan to send the Savior to the world.

Now Mary enters the story. This is a painting named The Annunciation by Fra Angelico. Please notice Mary, draped in a blue robe that symbolizes royalty, surrounding her dress of red, which symbolizes her human nature. God was draping Mary in His kingly glory.

Now picture yourself dressed in red with the blue robe draped over you. Just maybe this verse now has a different meaning. **"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ like a garment."**

(Galatians 3:27)

Mary, a fourteen-year-old, waiting to complete her marriage to Joseph. Can you just imagine the thoughts going through her mind about her future with Joseph? Then, all of a sudden, an angel named Gabriel, sent by God, to deliver a message. **"And the angel came to her and said, 'Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you.'"** (Luke 1:28) Mary didn't know what to think. She was greatly troubled and tried to discern what kind of greeting was this and what did it mean. Then the angel told her: ³⁰ **"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name Jesus."** (Luke 1:30-31)

Mary was told she was going to have a baby, conceived by the Holy Spirit. She had found favor with God. He chose her above every other woman to be the earthly mother of His Son, Jesus. Can you guess the confusion Mary had? Who would believe her when she told them about being pregnant? What is Joseph going to think? I want you to notice the different reactions that Zechariah and Mary had. Zechariah doubted God and was mute until John was born. Yes, Mary asked how this can be, but she didn't doubt. She was confused because this went against nature, but her response to Gabriel was, **"I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word."** Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:38)

Mary now goes to a town in the hill country of Judah to visit Elizabeth. When Mary walked into the house and greeted Elizabeth, something happened. 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.” (Luke 1:40-45) The only way Elizabeth could have known about Mary’s pregnancy is the Holy Spirit revealed it to her. Mary had not seen Elizabeth for a while. Please take the time to read Luke 1:46-56. This is Mary’s response to Elizabeth’s statement.

What about Joseph? He has a major part in the birth of Jesus. The prophecy about Jesus being from the line of David is accomplished through Joseph. “For this is what the Lord says: David will never fail to have a man sitting on the throne of the house of Israel.” (Jeremiah 33:17)

“Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. Joseph is engaged to Mary.” (Matthew 1:16) “The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18) This was a disgrace to Joseph and to Mary’s family. This was a problem. Can you just guess the gossip going around about them, especially Mary? “So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.” (Matthew 1:19)

Joseph was asleep when an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21)

Joseph now knows that he and Mary have been chosen by God for a very special purpose. They were to be the earthly parents of God’s Son. “²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:24-25) Have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1g1hp_Eb3o&list=RDe1g1hp_Eb3o&start_radio=1