

Mary and the Angel

Luke 1:26-38

by Don Falkos

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God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a small town in Galilee, the northern province of Israel. The angel went to a young woman named Mary who was engaged but not yet married to a man named Joseph who was a descendant of King David. A traditional engagement lasted a full year and was just as binding as marriage itself. Sometimes a couple would live under the same roof during this year-long period of betrothal, but they would never exercise in the privileges of marriage until they had been officially joined together as husband and wife.

The angel Gabriel greeted Mary, "You are truly blessed. God is with you."

Mary was intrigued and also a bit perplexed, wondering what this greeting might mean.

"Don't be afraid, Mary. God loves you dearly. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him Jesus. He will be known as the Son of the Most High. God will give him the throne of his ancestor, King David. He will rule over the people of Israel forever. His kingdom will never end."

"How can this be? I'm not married."

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The power of the Most High will overshadow you. Your child will be called Holy – the Son of God. You have a relative named Elizabeth who is also going to have a son. She is old and no one thought she would ever have a child. But she is now well along in her pregnancy. So you see nothing is impossible with God."

"I belong to God, body and soul. Whatever God says, I accept."

With that the angel left her.