

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 1- Luke 1:30-33**

11- The Angelic Announcement to Mary

December 28, 2008

Luke 1:30-33

Now you might think that preaching about the Person of Jesus Christ would be the most joyous of all subjects, and you would be correct. But then you might also think that preaching about the Person of Jesus Christ would be the easiest thing to do- and you would be so wrong.

You see, I would much rather describe Zacharias and Elizabeth and John the Baptist and Joseph and Mary than try to describe Jesus. Because I fear that I may misrepresent Him to you, and in so doing- perhaps warp your vision of His Mystery and Glory. I feel very inadequate to find the words worthy of describing such an unspeakable Person as Jesus.

Now you would think that having been a Christian as long as I have, and preached as long as I have that this would get easier- but you see the more I learn about Jesus, the more I value Jesus, the more I fear and tremble before Jesus, the more I understand from Scripture about Jesus- the harder this gets.

The truth is that I see so much to say about the One Who lived and Died and Rose Again that it becomes complicated. And I always feel when I have preached on the Person of Christ, or when I've tried to rightly divide what the Scriptures say about the Person of Jesus Christ in both His complete Humanity and His complete Divinity that I have miserably failed because it is simply impossible to say all that should be said about the most unique Person Who ever lived.

Our text for this morning is **Luke 1:31-33**. And we are working our way through Dr. Luke's narrative of the Birth of Jesus Christ as we begin this Gospel. So let's read that passage again together:

Luke 1:26-33

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you."

29 But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

30 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 name Him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end."

Now we must know that the Record of God inserting Himself into His Own Universe as God the Son is the most marvelous, miraculous, and impactful Account in all of human literature and all of human history. The single most significant event that has ever happened or that will ever happen is the Incarnation- the moment when the Sovereign God imposed Himself into His Own Creation and for the first time in history became a part of that Creation by being born as a baby boy to a virgin.

The implications of this moment are massive and eternal because by the Birth of Jesus Christ- God the Son entered the world to provide eternal Salvation for all who believe. And apart from God taking on human flesh and becoming Man- there would be no Salvation at all and the entire human race would be forever damned to an eternal hell. So this is the high point of God's Redemptive Plan, as Paul stated in **Galatians 4:4&5:**

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

God sent forth His Son at the most crucial moment when all of the issues were in perfect order for the arrival of Messiah. And He came for the Grand and Gracious Purpose of redeeming sinners from the just Condemnation of the Law and the just Punishment of eternal hell.

And here Luke unfolds that great moment. And we began last time by looking at verse 26, and there I told you that we must see the Divine Perspective on this. We need to look at this Event from God's Viewpoint- so this is Part 2 of the Angelic Announcement to Mary.

Now we saw the Divine Messenger in verse 26- only the second time in 400 years- named Gabriel- sent from the very Presence of God to an obscure hamlet called Nazareth in Galilee.

And from the Divine Messenger we went to the Divine Choice in verse 27- the virgin whose name was Mary. Out of all of the girls that God could have chosen- God Sovereignly chose *this* girl- probably somewhere between 13 and 15 years old- who was betrothed or promised or engaged to a young man- who himself could have been as young as 15 himself, named Joseph.

And we saw how that their engagement was formal and legally binding. They were betrothed to one another- awaiting the marriage ceremony- which was yet to come- when they would consummate their marriage vows.

And we saw that as Mary was in a house- going about her normal daily duties- suddenly the angel Gabriel came down from the very Presence of Almighty God- down from Heaven, down into the Middle East, down to the land of Israel, down into the little town of Nazareth, to a particular street, to this particular house, to this particular virgin girl, and in verse 28- pronounced the Divine Blessing.

So the Divine Messenger was Gabriel, The Divine Choice was Mary, and the Divine Blessing was Grace,

Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

... says the angel, "**the Lord is with you.**" God the Almighty, Eternal Creator and Owner of the Universe has come down with a Message through this angel, to this virgin girl, to bestow upon her a Grace- the

likes of which no other human being in the history of the world had ever or will ever experience- a Grace that is beyond human comprehension.

Now we must realize, dear friends, that the real issue here, of course, is God's Sovereign Choice. Because you must notice that Luke says nothing about Mary's own righteousness- nothing at all- except she was a virgin- and that's all. She was just a young girl, as I said, maybe as old as 15 years-old- who had just reached puberty. And she had never known a man. She was betrothed to her fiancé and she was to prove her purity during that time of betrothal and to be pure was essential.

If she committed adultery she would fall under condemnation given in the Law of God back in **Deuteronomy** and would be stoned to death. Mary was just a simple, humble virgin girl. And it was to her that this immense Grace was to be given.

And we saw how that Mary didn't understand what this all meant but was startled by it all. And Luke tells us in verse 29,

But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

Why in the world would an angel from the very Presence of God, a glorious angel come down to tell her that special Grace was given to her and the Lord would be with her? How could this possibly be? Why her? Indicative in her statement is the reality that Mary was acutely aware of her own sinful heart- she knew full well of her own unworthiness- and therefore she couldn't imagine why such Grace would be bestowed upon her.

And the angel said to her in verse 30,

Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

"Don't be afraid, Mary, there's nothing to fear- I have not come to bring God's Wrath on you because of your sins- but I have come to tell you that like Noah- you have found Grace in the Eyes of the Lord."

Now up to this point- she doesn't know what this Grace is all about. She has no idea what is going to happen because Mary had absolutely no foreknowledge of what the Lord would do with her. And I ask you to note that there is no statement made here by Gabriel or

Luke's to commend Mary about her own Sinlessness. Luke doesn't say about Mary what he said about Zacharias and Elizabeth back in verse 6 where it is inspirationally recorded that they were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. It doesn't say that about Mary. And that is simply because it wasn't true of Mary, and God wants us to be sure to realize that what happened to Mary here had nothing to do with any inherent merit or worthiness on Mary's part.

So we have seen the Divine Messenger coming to the Divine Choice, bringing the Divine Blessing, and then announcing in verses 31 to 33- the Divine Child. So we are here today at the fourth point- the Divine Child, and here for the first time Mary finds out what this Work of God, this Gracious Work of God in her life is going to be. And believe me, for God to plant a Divine Seed in her and for her to carry the Son of God in her womb is a marvelous Blessing coming from undeserved Grace, isn't it?

So never forget this Biblical fact that the only people who *need* Grace are those who don't deserve it because of their own sinfulness. That is what Grace is- Grace is not simply God's favor- you see- no, Grace is *unmerited* Favor, it is *unearned* Love, and Grace is *undeserved* Special Treatment by God to sinners. Therefore, we can rightly conclude here from Holy Scripture itself that Mary was a sinner- like all who are born of woman- all who are born of woman, that is, except this Divine Child that the angel is announcing here.

Now it is true that although Mary was a sinner in need of Grace- it is also true that Mary was a *saved* sinner- who believed and trusted in God for Salvation - because as we read in verse **46b&47:**

46 ...“My soul exalts the Lord,

47And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

... Mary called God- “my Savior”. And it is also true that Mary was a *yielded* sinner- who yielded her own will to God's Will because we read in **Luke 1:38:**

Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.

And we also know by reading the rest of Luke that Mary was also a *faithful* sinner because she actually obeyed the Sovereign Choosing of God in birthing a son even though she was a virgin- even after the birth! So God the Father formed God the Son in the womb of a sinner- what Grace!

And now the Heavenly Announcement comes in **Luke 1:35:**

The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

Now try to put yourself in Mary's shoes for a minute. If Mary had been startled at the initial statement of the angel, **“for you have found favor with God”**, if *that* was hard for her to grasp and if she was greatly troubled at *that* statement and kept pondering what *THAT* meant, what in the world do you think she as thinking when the angel said to her you're going to conceive the Son of God in your virgin womb?

Now like all of us today Mary knew one way to conceive and that was to have a relationship with a man. But she had never had a relationship with a man- she was a virgin. And she confirms the fact that she was a virgin in verse 34, when she said:

How can this be, since I am a virgin?

Now everywhere throughout the New Testament- it flat out says that Mary was a virgin and that she had never known a man. Nowhere is that fact contradicted. And so we know that her Child was, in fact, the Messiah because in birthing Jesus- Mary fulfilled the 600 year old Promise that was given to the prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 7:14:**

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

And because this was so utterly and physically and biologically impossible- Mary was taken back and asked how this could possibly come to pass- seeing she was a virgin- and that is why one of the most beautiful and mysterious verses in the entire Bible was written which tells us just how God inserted Himself into His Own Creation and became flesh in **Luke 1:35:**

... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

And the holy offspring that shall be born from this miraculous event shall be called- not the Son of Joseph- but...what?...the Son of God!" A pregnant virgin- why that is utterly unimaginable and utterly impossible.

And the powerful impact of this physical and biological impossibility was not lost on Dr. Luke who was careful to quote the angel Gabriel in verse 37- who said:

For nothing will be impossible with God.

Now to be pregnant out of wedlock, to violate a betrothal covenant to commit what would constitute adultery was punishable by death, according to God's Own Law as recorded by Moses- many hundreds of years earlier- in Deuteronomy 22. Any violation of this would require that Mary would be publicly stoned to death. And had the theocracy of Israel still been operating on God's Terms as it had under King David, for example- that would have been the sentence for Mary- stone the adulteress to death. But for many years prior to this moment- the nation of Israel had collectively moved far away from upholding the Law of God.

Now we must know, dear friends, that God had originally desired that very public and very severe consequences for this kind of sin be carried out so that men and women would be persuaded against it. Because God made the penalty for committing this sin to be far greater than any pleasure derived from the sin- it was very rarely committed- at least not without great secrecy. There were several sins that were so heinous to God- that God Himself commanded that the guilty party be put to death- and among those sins were children dishonoring their parents.

But long ago- the people of God had apostatized and no longer obeyed or enforced the Law of God. What had grown up was the custom of divorcing an adulterous wife- and as we will see later that Joseph had initially chosen to divorce Mary secretly when she first told him

that she was with child- probably because of his love for Mary and his desire not to see her stoned to death. So even though their refusal to obey or to enforce God's Law was sinful- God used the backsliding of Israel as a means to preserve Mary from being stoned to death. And as we will also see- that because Mary was not guilty of any sin at all- that this proved that this Event was, in fact, a Sovereign Work of God.

Luke 1:31-33

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end.

"When the Son is born you shall name Him Jesus." And that's exactly what Mary did. In **Luke 2:21**, the good doctor writes:

And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Now this really starts to unfold great things about the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is where language really begins to fail me. In this statement that is recorded for us here in **Luke 1:31-33**:

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end.

... this seems on the surface to be a rather simple statement- but in this one statement by the angel is a very succinct summary of the entire Work of Jesus Christ. In this one statement- you have His Gracious Saving Work summarized in the Name, "Jesus", in verse 31; You have the Perfectly Righteous and Sinless life of Christ summarized in the

word, "great," in verse 32; You have the Deity of Christ summarized in the title "the Son of the Highest" in verse 32; And you have the Resurrection, the Ascension, and the glorious Return of Jesus summarized in the Promise that the Lord would give Jesus the throne of His father David, and that He would reign over the House of Jacob forever, and that His Kingdom would never end in verses 32 & 33.

So in what the angel says here in these three verses- you have a summation of the Righteous Life, saving Death, Resurrection, and Glorious Return, and eternal Reign of Jesus Christ all tied together. And this is so great and so rich- but I will do my best to give you just a glimpse.

So first of all- the angel introduces something of Christ's Saving Death in the Name, "Jesus", which in Hebrew was "Y'eshua", a familiar Name from the Old Testament that means, "Yahweh saves".

You see, the God of the Old Testament was a God of Salvation, and the people knew it. God is a Saving God. God saves sinners. And that's exactly why Jesus came. **Luke 19:10** says:

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Matthew 1:21 says:

... and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Luke 2:11 says:

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And in **Luke 2:29**- when Simeon is praising God and holding Jesus in his arms- he said:

**29 Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,
According to Your word;**

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.

And down in **Luke 2:38**, at the very moment that Simeon said this- an 84-year-old widow woman came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Jesus to all those who were looking for the Salvation or the Redemption of Jerusalem.

And the Apostle Paul said in **1Timothy 1:15**:

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

So as you read through the New Testament, and as you read through the four Gospels, and as you read through **The Book of the Acts of the Apostles**- the diary of the first 30 years of the Church- and as you read through all the Epistles of Paul and Peter and James and John and Jude, and as you read the great **Epistle to the Hebrews**, and you finish with **The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ**, and as you go through all of the 27 inspired infallible, inerrant Books of the New Covenant- the one theme that runs through them all is the Sovereign Saving Work of Jesus Christ- the dominant theme through them all is that Jesus came to save sinners. The Name "Jesus" means "the Lord is Salvation." So Salvation is not a foreign thing to God. Salvation is not a reluctant Work on God's Part. Salvation is not Plan "B" that God initiated in response to the Fall of Adam in the Garden.

No, Salvation is the very meaning of God, the Son's Name; Salvation for unworthy sinners is the very Expression of God's Own Personal Essence. Mary's Son would be the Savior that all the Old Covenant had looked to and had promised, and the only way Jesus could save us from our sins was to die in our place. So bound up in the Name "Jesus" is His Saving Death.

And Then the angel says in verse 32,

"He will be great."

And again- I am amazed at the understatement of that. You know, we say that about all kinds of things. We say to people, *"Have a great day", or "Boy, that sure was a great sandwich."* And you know, we tend to trivialize all the language, don't we; then we've got to stack on endless adjectives to make anything rise above the mundane.

But here the angel says here that Jesus shall be “great”, and that's all it says. And Luke could have translate that as “extraordinary”, he might have gone even further and said “splendid” or “magnificent” or “noble” or “distinguished” or “powerful” or “eminent” – because all of those words could rightly be substituted for the Greek word that was translated here into English as “great”.

But even all those descriptive English words still leave us way short of what should be said about Jesus- as we look at His Righteous Life- because that's what this word is attached to- Jesus' Life. The Name Jesus is attached to His Death- but the word “great” here speaks of His extraordinary Life.

Now what makes this word “great” as used here in **Luke 1:32** so fascinating is because it says back in verse 15 that John the Baptist will be “great”. So is this the same greatness? No, it isn't.

The difference is that in **Luke 1:15**- it says that John will be great “**in the sight of the Lord**”-modifying just *how* John will be “great”. But notice in **Luke 1:32**- it simply says that Jesus will be “great” without any modifiers on it.

And this shows us that John will be great with an *imputed* greatness that John did not naturally possess in and of himself. In other words- God will give to John a “greatness” that won't necessarily be seen by Man but will be seen by the Lord- a “legal” greatness that is something that God gives or grants to John.

But Jesus' “greatness” is something not granted to Him but a greatness that is naturally possessed by Jesus. It comes from within Jesus Himself and is not imputed, it is not granted, it is not given, but rises up from within Jesus Himself. This greatness is an unqualified greatness, and unmodified greatness, a greatness that has no exceptions and no caveats to it. Gabriel didn't say that Jesus would be great in the sight of the Lord- but that Jesus will be great.

And this inherent “greatness” of Jesus is best understood if we look at **John 12:41**. Please turn with me to **John 12:41**. In this passage- the Apostle John is writing about Christ fulfilling a particular prophecy from **Isaiah 6**. And then in verse 41 John says,

These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him.

John tells us that Isaiah actually saw the Glory of the One that he was prophesying about. Well, Who was Isaiah prophesying about? Jesus Christ- the One Who would be Immanuel- God with us- born of a virgin. Isaiah had prophesied that in **Isaiah 7:14**. And then in **Isaiah 9:6 & 7** Isaiah prophesied:

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

So Isaiah saw the coming Messiah.

But notice that Isaiah not only spoke of Jesus- but John said that he also saw the Glory of Jesus. Well when did Isaiah see the Glory of Jesus? In **Isaiah 6** when he saw the Glory of God- because it's the very same Glory. The Glory of God is the Glory of Jesus because Jesus is God with a Body.

And you remember that **Isaiah 6** tells us that the prophet Isaiah went into the temple and when he was there he received a vision: He saw the Lord high and lifted up and His Glory filled the temple, and the angels began to shout, *"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory,"* and he was caught up in the magnificence and the terror of that Revelation of God's Glory.

And when Isaiah saw that Glory of God- he saw the Glory of Christ because the Glory of Christ is the same as the Glory of God. And that's why **John 1:14** says,

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John said that the Apostles also saw the Glory of Jesus Christ- His Own inherent Greatness and they saw that Glory and Greatness as being the Glory of the One and Only of the Father- full of Grace and Truth.

Turn quickly with me to **Matthew 16:28**:

Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Now notice that Jesus didn't say that all would see the inherent Greatness and Glory of God the Son- but the next verse tells us who did see it. Look now at **Matthew 17:1&2:**

1 Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.

2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

When did the Apostles see that Glory and that Greatness of Christ? In **Matthew 17**, on the Mount of Transfiguration when they saw Christ's Own inherent Glory and Greatness shining through His humanity and they fell like dead men to the ground in terror.

What is the Glory of God? The Glory of God is the visible manifestation of God's Own Personal Attributes. Back in **Exodus** when Moses wants to see God- God says in **Exodus 33:22:**

22 And it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

23 Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.

The Bible says that God let His Own inherent Mercy and Goodness and Loving Kindness pass before Moses. So God's Glory is the manifestation of His Own Personal Attributes. And that's what John says about Jesus:

... and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

So Glory is the manifestation of God's Own Personal Divine Attributes. And so when it says in **Luke 1:32** that Jesus will be "great"- it means that Jesus will manifest this same inherent Glory that only belongs to God- it means that Jesus will manifest the very Glory of God. That is to say that you will see the very Personal Attributes of God the father through Jesus perfectly Righteous and perfectly Sinless Life.

You will see God displayed perfectly through Jesus. Jesus will talk just like God, He will act just like God, He will think just like God, and He will be just like God because Jesus is God and He will be great just like God is great. He will be glorious.

This is exactly what the writer of **Hebrews** meant when he wrote in **Hebrews 1:3**:

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

So as we continue our journey through **Luke**- you're going to see God in every picture of Jesus. God's very Own Thoughts, God's very Own Words, God's very Own Actions, God's very Own Responses, God's very Own Goodness, God's very Own Wisdom, God's very Own Omnipotence and Omniscience- we're going to see it all- revealed in and through this Child.

So you see here in Gabriel's Divine Message the Saving Death and the Righteous Life of Jesus summed up. And the Essential Nature of Christ is further described in **Luke 1:32**:

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...

Now rest assured, dear friends, that we could do an entire Bible Study on the phrase, "the Most High," or "the Highest"- because that phrase- "the Highest" or "the Most High" means that there's nobody higher. And this was a title that was used for God. It was a familiar Jewish title for God, and it's used all over the Old Testament.

In fact, the Hebrew equivalent of this Greek term "*hupsistos*" that Luke uses here is "*El Elyon*", which means "God Most High". And this is the Name for God that refers to His Sovereignty. No one is higher than God, No one is more exalted, no one is more powerful, and no one is as Sovereign as God Most High.

And the Jews often referred to God that way. Not wanting to say His Name- Yahweh- because it was considered to be too holy to repeat with sinful lips- they would say "*El Shaddai*", or "*El Elyon*", or "*El Makadeshkim*", or some other description of God's Own Personal Attributes that God Himself had revealed to the Jews through the 39

Books of the Old Covenant to distinguish the one true living God from all the other false gods of the other heathen nations.

And they knew God often as the Most High God. Remember what Gabriel told Mary in **Luke 1:35**:

... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...

So God was known to the Jews as "the Most High". Over in **Luke 1:76** as Zacharias blesses God for the birth of his son, John the Baptist, he's saying,

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High...

... again a reference to God.

And Dr. Luke uses that phrase again in **Luke 6:35** when he said:

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*.

And when Stephen was preaching his great sermon in The Acts 7- he referred to God as "the Most High", a very familiar term for God, used all through the Old Testament, in the Pentateuch, as well as in the historical writings, as well as in the Psalms, as well as in the prophets. It's everywhere- God Most High.

Now to identify Jesus as the Son of the Most High- Gabriel is indicating that Jesus has the very same Essence as the Most High Himself- another reference to the Deity of Jesus Christ.

You see, in Jewish terminology- when you are the son of someone- you bear their same essence. So because Jesus is the Son of the Most High- that means that He is One in Essence with the Most High God. Jesus Himself said in **John 14:9**:

... He who has seen Me has seen the Father...

...and in **John 10:30**:

I and the Father are one.

... and that is a statement that is without the possibility of misunderstanding to anyone who reads the New Testament with an open mind.

So, what can be said about this Child? His Saving Death is bound up in the Name, "Jesus"; His perfectly Sinless and Righteous Life is bound up in the reference to His own inherent "greatness"; His Essential Divine Nature is bound up in the title "the Son of the Highest."

But that doesn't tell us the full story. Son of God- yes. Born a man- check; Lived a righteous and sinless life- absolutely; Died the sacrificial atoning Death to save us from our sins- correct. But that is not yet the end of the story.

And sadly, for many Christians it is. Now as a whole- I suppose that those of us who are Bible believing Evangelicals- that we've done a pretty good job at getting Jesus off the cross. But, even though we've got Jesus off the Cross- we haven't done a very good job of getting Jesus to the Throne.

And there's so much confusion in the modern Church about this issue that it is shameful. The Story of Salvation doesn't end with the death of Christ, and the Resurrection of Christ, and then our own personal salvation- that's not the end of the Story.

No, the end of the Story of Salvation is found in the rest of what Gabriel told Mary in **Luke 1:32&33**- read it with me:

Luke 1:32&33

32 ... 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 His kingdom will have no end.

... that's the end of the story. And please don't you leave the Story of Salvation until it ends with a glorious Kingdom and Christ reigning on the throne of David over the nation Israel and establishing at that point what turns out to be an Eternal Sovereignty over all the earth forever.

The complete Story of Salvation is not told until you get to that point. Now I know there are people called "amillennialists" who don't believe there will ever be a Kingdom. They believe that this is it. But please allow me to say that if *this* is the glorious Kingdom of Christ- then we are all in trouble. If what we have now is all that there will ever be- then we are above all men most miserable.

If this is the Kingdom of Christ, dear friends- then God is not Omnipotent- He's just impotent. Let me tell you something, Christ is not ruling this world with a rod of iron right now, and righteousness is not prevailing- even prevailing in our own country- let alone the world.

The point is that the Story of salvation isn't over yet, folks. It doesn't just go to the Cross and then the Gospel's preached and I'm saved and it just sort of dissolves at that point. No, the Story of Salvation will end with great precision. God's Perfect Sovereign Plan of Redemption culminates in the glorious reign of Jesus Christ on the throne of His father David over the nation Israel in which He establishes an earthly Kingdom for a thousand glorious years, followed by an eternal Kingdom.

Now there are other people on the other end of the spectrum called "post-millennialists", who believe that somehow if only we all just worked a lot harder- we could bring in the Kingdom of God ourselves.

But that's wrong, friends. We don't bring the Kingdom to this earth- Gabriel tells Mary here that the Kingdom is given to Jesus by the Lord God, do you see that? We don't bring it in. Some people think if we can just take control of Washington and the other Governments of the world- we can literally inaugurate the Kingdom of God.

But the Bible says that God is the One Who gives the Kingdom to His Son- not us. That's why I'm what's called a "pre-millennialist"; that's a term that simply means there will be an actual earthly Kingdom and in that Kingdom the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Seed of David will reign as the rightful Heir to the Throne over the nation Israel and over the whole world.

You say, "*Why do you believe that, Brother Blair?*" I believe that because that's what the Bible says. And I think that's where history is going.

Everybody today is talking about all the anarchy and all the rioting and all the terrorism and the killing and it's the way of the world. But it is only the way of the world until the King of Peace comes;

Until the King of righteousness comes and establishes His earthly Kingdom and rules with a rod of iron and rules with righteousness and peace prevails over the whole world and the whole earth is full of the glory of God as the water covers the sea.

And I'll tell you another thing. The Lord Jesus didn't have any Kingdom when He was on earth. They killed Him and He left, and He went back to Heaven. But the Bible says that at the appointed hour- the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David and then there will be a real Kingdom.

And all of that genealogy that we find in **Matthew 1**- the whole genealogy in the first seventeen verses is to identify the Messiah as the seed of David- precisely because it is the line of David that has the royal right. And Joseph- Jesus' legal human stepfather- was of that seed of David. And Mary- Jesus' mother was of that seed of David as her genealogy in **Luke 3** will show us- so that He received His royal blood from His mother and His royal authority from His legal stepfather, and by both Jesus was therefore in the line to be King- He had legal right to the throne of David.

Because Jesus was born to reign. He came into the world and He offered to man- His Kingdom. And what did men do? They spurned His Kingdom, rejected Him, and executed Him. But, praise be to God- He'll be back- and when He comes back- God will give to Him His Kingdom.

When you read in the Old Testament, in **Psalms 2**, for example, that His Father will give Him the nations as His inheritance and He will reign with a rod of iron, when you read **Isaiah 9** as we quoted earlier that He's going to be King and Sovereign and the Governments will be upon His shoulders- that hasn't happened yet.

Christ's eternal Kingdom is described all throughout the Old Testament. It's repeatedly described again and again and again. In **2Samuel 7:12-16**- God said to David that he would have a Son and that that Son would be a king who would reign forever. God wasn't talking about Solomon because Solomon didn't have an eternal reign- in fact, Solomon basically destroyed the kingdom and split it up.

But that Son Who will have an eternal Kingdom was going to come out of the seed of David and Messiah was of the line of David. You follow His genealogy, Jesus came from David and He's going to have a Kingdom.

And if you go to **The Book of the Revelation 19** you'll read how Jesus is going to return in the future. It tells us that Jesus is going to come as what? The King of all earthly human kings and the Lord of all earthly human lords- it gives Him that title. And when He comes as King of kings and Lord of lords- He's going to do what? The Bible says that Jesus is going to kill all of the ungodly- smash them in the holocaust of Armageddon. Then He's going to do what? Establish His earthly reign.

The Revelation 20- the first thing Christ does to establish His Kingdom is to have the Antichrist and his cohort, the false prophet, and have them thrown into the Lake of Fire with all the other ungodly people. Then He's going to take satan, according to **The Revelation 20:1-3** and He's going to bind him in chains for a thousand years.

At that point Christ establishes His Kingdom on the earth and we will reign with Him it says that several times in the first six or seven verses of **The Revelation 20**.

There will be a Kingdom in which He will reign, and I believe it will be in a *renewed* earth, not a recreated one yet, but a *renewed* earth. The prophet Zechariah says a fountain of Salvation will be open and Grace and Supplication will be open to Israel.

The rebels will be purged out. Israel will be saved. Gentile believers will all be gathered with converted Jews. They will go into that glorious thousand-year Kingdom and reign with Christ for that time and the earth will be restored to righteousness and peace and the knowledge of God for a thousand years.

And then the Bible says that at the end of that thousand years- God will then uncreate the universe, as we know it, and immediately recreate the new heaven and the new earth, and Christ's Kingdom will go right beyond that new creation and last forever and forever.

And as long as you go through this carefully- you can get every single bit of what I just said in what the angel Gabriel says to that terrified little virgin girl right here in these two verses.

Pretty mind-boggling day for her- you think?

The angel said that Mary's son will reign over the house of Jacob. Now Jacob is a synonym for Israel. You remember Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" in **Genesis 32:28**. So this Promise means that God has preserved the Jewish people as a nationality for a future time of Salvation and a Kingdom!

And the Bible promises that you and I are going to be in that Kingdom. Even though we are caught away- we'll be brought back for this Kingdom. And the Bible says that people will even be saved during the Great Tribulation- and they will be in this Kingdom.

Christ will come and judge the unbelieving. Then He will establish His Kingdom, righteousness, peace and truth will prevail. The lion will lie down with a lamb- and all kinds of incredible things will happen. The desert will blossom like a rose. Ceremonies once regarded as belonging only to the temple will be restored in a millennial temple where God will be worshiped in glorious memorials to the great realities of the Old Testament as well as the New.

And once this Kingdom is established, George Frederick Handel had it right, "*He shall reign forever and ever.*" Don't you love that Hallelujah chorus- God's Kingdom goes on and on and on and on forever and ever and ever and ever.

Now be careful to note that we're not talking about Christ's *spiritual* rule here. Jesus rules as our King personally- absolutely- but that is not what the angel says here. Of course Christ's *spiritual* rule will go on forever because Salvation is forever.

But the Kingdom- the rule from the line of King David on the earth over Israel and extended across the whole world will also take place. And once that Kingdom is established- it will never end. The form of it will end, the millennial years will end. This universe as we know it will be uncreated and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth will take place. But once He establishes His rule, that rule will transcend those changes and never end.

There will only be one King from the time He establishes His Kingdom forever. And that is the sum of all Redemptive history- and it is absolutely breathtaking.

And I beg you this morning- don't do anything that will cause you to miss this great Kingdom. Come to Jesus quickly. Beg for His Mercy. Cry out to Jesus from a broken and bankrupt spirit that you are hopelessly sinful and unable to save yourself. Run to Jesus while He may still be found so that you will not miss being in the eternal Kingdom that Gabriel told Mary about.

Let's come and pray.

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.