

Celebrating HIS First Coming

Remembering what the Prophets said... Pt. 2

Luke 1:21 KJV

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

Luke 1:21 AMPC

21 Now the people kept waiting for Zachariah, and they wondered at his delaying [so long] in the sanctuary.

In Part 1, we saw Zachariah going into the temple to burn incense. He saw the angel Gabriel and was told he would have a son in his old age. Because of his unbelief he was struck dumb, unable to speak or no longer have influence over people regarding what God had promised or foretold to fulfill prophesy.

When someone *tarried* this long ordinarily it meant he had displeased God and been killed. The people were beginning to be concerned for Zachariah's life.

“Tarried so long in the temple”: Zachariah was only supposed to offer incense, then come out to pronounce the familiar blessing of (Numbers 6:23-27), on the people who were waiting in the temple court. The conversation with the angel would have taken additional time.

Luke 1:22 KJV

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

Luke 1:22 AMPC

22 But when he did come out, he was unable to speak to them; and they [clearly] perceived that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary; and he kept making signs to them, still he remained dumb.

When the people saw him (Zachariah), they knew immediately that something unusual had happened in the temple. They assumed that he had seen a vision because he could not talk.

Luke 1:23 KJV

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

Luke 1:23 AMPC

23 And when his time of performing priestly functions was ended, he returned to his [own] house.

Zachariah went ahead and finished his allotted time of work in the temple (a week), before he went home. Each priest had a certain amount of time he attended work in the temple and then someone else took over. This was the case with Zachariah.

Luke 1:24 KJV

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Luke 1:24 AMPC

24 Now after this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and for five months she secluded herself entirely, saying, [I have hid myself]

“Hid herself”: Probably an act of deep gratitude to the Lord. Elisabeth immediately knew that this child was a gift from God. She felt now her friends would not think God had cursed her because she had no children. She knew they too, would realize this was a gift from God because of her great age.

Luke 1:25 KJV

25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Luke 1:25 AMPC

25 Because thus the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He deigned to look on me to take away my reproach among men.

“My reproach”: Childlessness carried a reproach in a culture where blessings were tied to birthrights and also family line. From part 1, barrenness could occasionally be a sign of divine disfavor (Lev. 20:21-22), but it was not always so (Gen. 30:23; 1 Sam. 1:5-10). Still, it carried a social stigma that could be humiliating.

Luke 1:26 KJV

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

Luke 1:26 AMPC

26 Now in the sixth month [after that], the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth,

“Sixth month”: Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy. We see again here, God the Father sending Gabriel to Galilee with a message. The little town he went to was Nazareth.

“Nazareth”: means branch. What an interesting place for this to happen in that Jesus is the Branch.

Prophecies: Nazareth, Egypt, Killing of Jewish Children
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Matthew 2:13-15 AMPC

13 Now after they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Get up! [Tenderly] take unto you the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt; and remain there till I tell you [otherwise], for Herod intends to search for the Child in order to destroy Him.

14 And having risen, he took the Child and His mother by night and withdrew to Egypt.

15 And remained there until Herod’s death. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt have I called My Son.

Matthew 2:15 fulfills the prophecy in Hosea 11:1...

Hosea 11:1-7 AMPC

*1 When Israel was a child, then **I loved him and called My son out of Egypt.***

2 The more [the prophets] called to them, the more they went from them; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning incense to the graven images.

3 Yet I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms or taking them up in My arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love, and I was to them as one who lifts up and eases the yoke over their cheeks, and I bent down to them and gently laid food before them.

*5 They shall not [literally] return into [another bondage in] the land of Egypt, **but the Assyrian shall be their king because they refused to return to Me.***

6 And the sword shall rage against and fall upon their cities and shall consume the bars of their gates and shall make an end [of their defenses], because of their own counsels and devices.

*7 **My people are bent on backsliding from Me;** though [the prophets] call them to Him Who is on high, none at all will exalt Him or lift himself up [to come to Him].*

In the context of Matthew 2:15, Jesus's flight to Egypt with Mary and Joseph to escape King Herod is fulfilled, foretold by the Never Wrong Prophet Hosea.

Matthew applies this same prophetic language to Jesus, casting Him as the true and obedient "son" who retraces Israel's steps. By fleeing to Egypt, Jesus fulfills a prophetic pattern. The original exodus was a historical event where God delivered His people from slavery, and Matthew uses this to show that Jesus is leading a greater "new exodus" from the bondage of sin and death.

Matthew 2:16-18 AMPC

16 Then Herod, when he realized that he had been misled by the wise men, was furiously enraged, and he sent and put to death all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that territory who were two years old and under, reckoning according to the date which he had investigated diligently and had learned exactly from the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

18 A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they were no more.

Matthew 2:17 fulfills the prophecy in Jeremiah 31:15...

Jeremiah 31:15 AMPC

15 Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

Matthew is bringing forth that which was spoke by the Never Wrong Prophet Jeremiah to the grief of the mothers in Bethlehem after King Herod ordered the slaughter of young boys in the area in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.

Matthew draws a parallel between the ancient mourning for the children taken into Babylonian exile and the modern grief in Bethlehem caused by Herod's massacre. By connecting these events, Matthew highlights the deep sorrow over the death of innocents, but also points to Jesus as the ultimate hope for Israel, fulfilling the promise of comfort and restoration that follows the weeping in the original prophecy.

Matthew 2:19-23 AMPC

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

*20 And said, **Rise, [tenderly] take unto you the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead. (Joseph didnt know he was dead***

*21 **Then he awoke and arose and [tenderly] took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel.***

22 But because he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being divinely warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee.

*23 He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, **so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He shall be called a Nazarene [Branch, Separated One].***

Matthew is associating the word Nazarene which means Branch and also with the Hebrew word netser (“branch or sprout”) and the “Branch” was a common term for the Messiah...

Isaiah 11:1 AMPC

*11 And there shall come forth a Shoot **out of the stock of Jesse [David's father]**, and a **Branch** out of his roots shall grow and bear fruit.*

Jesus was “sprouting up” from an obscure village in Galilee and He was the Branch predicted by the prophets, and the name of the town He grew up also just happens to sound just like the prophets’ word for “branch.” Jesus identified Himself as “Jesus of Nazareth” with Saul on the road to Damascus.

Acts 22:7-8 KJV

7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

*8 And I answered, **Who art thou, Lord?** And he said unto me, **I am Jesus of Nazareth**, whom thou persecutest.*

Acts 22:7-8 AMPC

7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me [harass and trouble and molest Me]?

*8 And I replied, **Who are You, Lord?** And He said to me, **I am Jesus the Nazarene**, Whom you are persecuting.*

Who is Jesus? He is the Word (John 1:1) He is the Way, the Truth and Life (John 14:6) That is who Saul was persecuting.

After his conversion, Paul mentioned Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 26:9). One of the names of the early Christians was “Nazarenes” (Acts 24:5), and the term Nasara, meaning “Nazarene,” is still used today by Muslims to identify a Christian.

Luke 1:27 KJV

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:27 AMPC

27 To a girl never having been married and a virgin engaged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

“A virgin”: The importance of the virgin birth cannot be overstated. A right view of the incarnation hinges on the truth that Jesus was virgin-born. Both Luke and Matthew expressly state that Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived through supernatural means.

The nature of Christ's conception testifies of both His deity and His sinlessness. This ***"espoused"*** was much more binding than an engagement today. The deal had already been made by the fathers of the bride and groom. The actual marriage would take place after the groom had built the bride a home.

This explanation meant that she was a "virgin" and that she had never slept with Joseph and could not possibly be expecting his child.

Mary was a cousin of Elisabeth and was from a very godly family herself with Joseph being a descendent of King David. The world *would suppose* Jesus to be Joseph's son so it would be of extreme importance for him to be descended from David.

Prophecies: Jesus from the line of David

2 Samuel 7:12-16 AMPC

12 And when your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up after you your offspring who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for My Name [and My Presence], and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

*14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. **When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men.***

15 But My mercy and loving-kindness shall not depart from him, as I took [them] from Saul, whom I took away from before you.

16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before you; your throne shall be established forever.

Isaiah 53:5-8 AMPC

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.

Isaiah 9:6-7 AMPC

6 For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from the [latter] time forth, even forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Jeremiah 23:5 AMPC

5 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch (Sprout), and He will reign as King and do wisely and will execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Luke 1:28 KJV

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Luke 1:28 AMPC

28 And he came to her and said, Hail, O favored one [endued with grace]! The Lord is with you! Blessed (favored of God) are you before all other women!

“Highly favored”: Literally **“full of grace”**: A term used of all believers (in Ephesians. 1:6), where it is translated “bestowed.” **This portrays Mary as a recipient, not a dispenser, of divine grace.** Gabriel is bringing news to Mary that God sees how she lives and He is about to bless her above all the women of her day.

Ephesians 1:6 AMPC

6 [So that we might be] to the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace (favor and mercy), which He so freely bestowed on us in the **Beloved**.

Luke 1:29 KJV

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

Luke 1:29 AMPC

29 But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.

Mary felt uneasy because of the presence of Gabriel. She was not sure what he was saying. "Cast in her mind": This just means she was questioning in her mind what he meant, unsure of what he meant. She was not only surprised at his greeting to her but did not think of herself as being highly favored because she was very humble.

Luke 1:30 KJV

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Luke 1:30 AMPC

30 And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace (free, spontaneous, absolute favor and loving-kindness) with God.

“Fear not”: The same thing Gabriel had said to Zachariah (verse 13). Here again, we see Gabriel telling Mary not to fear because she is pleasing unto God.

Luke 1:31 KJV

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

Luke 1:31 AMPC

31 And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

The name "JESUS" is powerful. The name means Savior, and at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.

Philippians 2:10. AMPC

10 That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

This would be surprising news to Mary who had never been with a man but she is also told He will be a son as well.

Luke 1:32 KJV

*32 He shall be great, and shall be called **the Son of the Highest**; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

Luke 1:32 AMPC

*32 He will be great (eminent) and will be called the **Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His forefather David,*

“He shall be great”: This same promise was made of John the Baptist. However, the title is what sets Jesus apart. Notice here that "Son" is capitalized showing that this is God's Son.

1 Kings 2:45 AMPC

45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever.

“The Son of the Highest”: Verse 76, where John the Baptist is called “the prophet of the Highest.”

Luke 1:76 AMPC

76 And you, little one, shall be called a prophet of the Most High; for you shall go on before the face of the Lord to make ready His ways,

The Greek term Luke uses for “Most High” is the one used to translate in the Hebrew “The Most High God.”

Since a son bears his father's qualities, calling a person someone else's "son" was a way of signifying their identity or value of importance... Gabriel is telling Mary that her Son would be equal to the Most High God.

"His father David": Jesus was David's physical descendant through Mary's line. David's "throne" was emblematic of the messianic kingdom (2 Sam. 7:13-16; Psalm 89:26-29). God had promised David's descendants would be on the throne forever and we see here David's throne is Jesus' throne.

Luke 1:33 KJV

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:33 AMPC

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob throughout the ages; and of His reign there will be no end.

"Over the house of Jacob for ever": This emphasizes both the Jewish character of the millennial kingdom and the eternal permanence of Christ's rule over all. We would have understood this better if it had said Israel instead of "Jacob".

Luke 1:34 KJV

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Luke 1:34 KJV

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

“I know not a man”: Mary understood that the angel was speaking of an immediate conception, and she and Joseph were still in the midst of the long betrothal, or engagement period, both before the actual marriage and consummation.

Her question was borne out of wonder, not doubt, not disbelief, so the angel did not rebuke her as he had Zachariah (verse 20). Mary was thinking of the physical and not the spiritual, she knows that she has not been with a man and knows she is not expecting a baby by a man.

Luke 1:35 KJV

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:35 AMPC

35 Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.

The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee”: This was a creative act of the Holy Spirit. Mary is the mother and God is the Father... Mary furnishes the body and God provides the Spirit. ***“Highest”***: means the eternal Father, Mary is expecting the Christ Child and Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word. The Word takes on the form of flesh and dwells among us...

John 1:14 KJV

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 AMPC

14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.

Luke 1:36 KJV

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

Luke 1:36 AMPC

36 And listen! Your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren.

“Thy cousin Elisabeth”: It seems most reasonable to regard the genealogy of (3:23-38), as Mary’s. This would make her a direct descendant of David. Yet, Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. Therefore, Mary must have been related to Elizabeth through her mother, who would have been of Aaronic descent. Mary was a descendant of David through her father.

Luke 1:37 KJV

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 1:37 AMPC

37 For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.

Note: _____



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