



Rice Memorial MBC

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## **Jesus' Birth Foretold**

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus – **December 1, 2013**

**Worship with us** at **3201 Mary St** until we rebuild our sanctuary at 802 W. 15th,  
... We're just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...

## **Luke 1:26-40**

**Introduction:** Nineteen hundred years have not dimmed the luster of this glorious chapter nor cast any shadow over the hard historical facts related therein, facts which have been etched into the conscience of all mankind and which are indelibly written into the pages of the world's authentic records. The account here was written by a brilliant **physician, scientist** and **literary genius**, following years of patient and thorough research, and who had the incomparable opportunity of examining all of the sources, written and oral, that had any bearing on the events narrated. Luke's vivid, scientific account is as far above the subjective guesses of modern scholars as the sun in heaven is above the mud-flats of earth. If men would know what really happened at that pivotal point in history which would split all time into the two segments called B.C. and A.D., then let them read it here. This is what happened!

This chapter contains the author's preface (Luke 1:1-4), the record of the annunciation to Zacharias (Luke 1:5-23), the conception of Elizabeth (Luke 1:24-25), the annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26-38), and Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56), the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66), the prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:67-79), and a one-sentence summary of John the Baptist's early life (Luke 1:80).

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament [classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/](http://classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/))

**Luke 1:24-26**, And **after** those days his wife **Elisabeth** conceived, and **hid** herself **five** months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. And in the **sixth** month the **angel Gabriel** was sent from God unto a city of **Galilee**, named **Nazareth**...

**NOTE: Nazareth** ... Luke's explanation that Nazareth was a city of Galilee indicates that many of his readers were **Gentiles**. No Jew would have needed to be told the location of Nazareth. No man could ever have imagined that an **archangel** would be commissioned by the God of all creation to visit a village such as Nazareth, situated in a district, the very name of which announced it as a place of the despised Gentiles. "Galilee is a contraction of the region's full name, [Hebrew: geliyl ha-gowyim], which means "**district of the pagans.**" Many reasons have been suggested for God's choice of such a place for the residence of the divine Messiah, including the following: **(1)** Its Gentile character pointed to God's purpose of saving Gentiles. **(2)** Its insignificance suggested that no place where men live is beyond the Father's love and care. **(3)** The rural atmosphere provided an appropriate place for Jesus to develop into maturity. **(4)** By such a choice God signaled the reversal of human value judgments. **(5)** It enabled the fulfillment of the prophecy that Jesus should be called a **Nazarene** (Matthew 2:23). **(6)** It was less accessible to the curiosity and malignant

(dangerous to life) hatred of powerful rulers than would have been the case with some large city.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

**Luke 1:27**, To a **virgin espoused (betroth [to contract to any one for a marriage])** to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David... the virgin's name was **Mary**.

**NOTE:** Among the Jews of that period the betrothal took place a year before the couple lived together; but in every other respect it WAS the marriage ceremony. The bride's infidelity during the betrothal period was a capital offense (Deut. 22:23f).

The Old Testament foretold the virgin birth. The first prophecy of the Messiah ever given (Genesis 3:15) identified him as "**the seed of woman**"; and that never meant, nor could it ever have meant, anything other than the virgin birth of Christ. It was prophesied again in Isaiah 7:14, a prophetic word which an apostle declared a prediction of the virgin birth (Matthew 1:23).

Actually, the virgin birth is no greater **miracle** than raising the dead, walking on the sea, or changing water into wine. It even pales in significance when compared to the resurrection of Christ. Therefore, **unbelief** of the virgin birth is really a **refusal to believe** in Christ at all.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

**Luke 1:28**, 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.

**Thought 1.** The Lord waits until it's the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy and then sends the same angel, Gabriel, to Mary that had been sent to Zacharias. And remember Zacharias was burning incense with his eyes wide open when Gabriel appeared at the right side of the altar. He was afraid at just seeing Gabriel when the Lord opened his eyes to see things that are spirit. This is what some people call an "open vision". You're not asleep, and having a night vision. You're awake, and all of a sudden, you're looking at this spiritual being and your eyes are still open as you hear them speak. Here're more scriptures

**Numbers 24:3-4** ...Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the **vision** of the **Almighty**, falling into a **trance**, but having his **eyes open**...

**2 Kings 6:13-17**, And he said, Go and **spy** where he (**Elisha**) is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses... chariots, and a great host (an army): and they came by **night**, and **compassed** the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, **Fear not**: for they that **be with us** are **more** than they that **be with them**. And **Elisha** prayed, and said,

Lord, I pray thee, **open his eyes**, that he may **see**. And the Lord **opened** the **eyes** (*the eyes of the spirit*) of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was **full of horses** and **chariots of FIRE** round about Elisha.

**Thought 2.** See also Lk. 9:28-32, and Num. 22:21-35 where Balaam and his donkey both were granted the opening of their eyes to see an angel. As you know, donkeys are not of the spiritual realm, but God granted that she SEE the angel and SPEAK to Balaam.

**Luke 1:29**, And when she **saw** him, she was **troubled (disturb wholly, agitate with alarm)** at his saying, and cast in her **mind** what manner of salutation this should be.

**Thought 1.** Unlike Zacharias, Mary was not afraid at seeing Gabriel. However, she was disturbed at his saying, and thinking about his salutation. Evidently, she was familiar

with the scriptures that spoke of angels appearing to men and women of old. The telling of their ministry is all through the scriptures! And if a person studies, and learns of them, trusting in what they do for humans, there will be no fear if this happens to them. Although, like Mary it may disturb you because of what you hear when he shows up.

Mary was a chosen vessel since she had been equipped and thoroughly furnished by God's word. She had the understanding to accept, and obey whatever the Lord wanted to reveal, or desire of her! And if you and I will meditate all of God's Word, and be taught, we too will get the understanding that's necessary to be furnished unto all good works.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**, **All scripture** is given by **inspiration** of God, and is **profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for **CORRECTION**, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect (fresh)**, [useful, profitable, untainted; PURE], **complete** [having no deficiency]), throughly furnished unto ALL good works.

**Thought 2.** As you probably know, all scriptures show angels as being mature and MALE in gender. There are no baby nor female angels. Angels carry God's messages, execute his deliverance/ protection, and his judgments; obeying his word. Women are the only spirits in existence of the female gender. They're unique, and were made so that men who desire wives could have them and the human race could multiply. All angels are created beings. And after humans die and are resurrected, they don't become angels, and never will.

**Luke 1:30-31**, And the **angel** said unto her, **Fear not**, Mary: for thou hast found **favour** with God. And, behold, thou shalt **conceive** in thy **womb**, and bring forth a **son**, and shalt call his name **Jesus**.

**NOTE:** **JESUS** ... is the New Testament form of the Old Testament "**Joshua**," and has the meaning, "Jehovah is salvation." Matthew's account quotes the angel as giving the reason why this name was chosen, "For it is he who shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Thus, the great purpose of Jesus' entry into our earth life was not political or secular, but redemptive.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

**Jesus defined 2424, Iesous pronounced: ee-ay-sooce' of Hebrew origin (3091); Jesus (i.e. Jehoshua).**  
**3091, Yhowshuwa` pronounced: yeh-ho-shoo'-ah or Yhowshua {yeh-ho-shoo'-ah}; from 3068 and 3467; Jehovah-saved; Jehoshua (i.e. JOSHUA).**

**Luke 1:32-33**, He shall be great, and shall be called the **Son** of the **Highest (the Supreme God)** and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father **David**: And he shall reign over the house of **Jacob** **for ever**; and of his **kingdom** there shall be no end.

**Thought 1.** Humility to God is what makes a person great. This is still true today!

**Matthew 18:2-4**, And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be **converted (turn quite around)**, and become **AS** (like) little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall **humble** himself as this little **child**, the same is **GREATEST** in the kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 1:34-35**, Then said **Mary** unto the angel, **HOW** shall **this be**, **seeing I know not** a man?

**Thought 1.** Her question was not IF it would happen, which is what Zacharias questioned. She believed that it would happen. But inquired about HOW, since she was a virgin.

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.

**Power defined 1411, dunamis pronounced *doo'-nam-is*, FORCE (literally or fig.); specially, miraculous POWER.**  
**Overshadow defined 1982, to envelope in a haze of brilliancy [dazzling brightness].**

**Thought 2.** Gabriel considered this to be a good question. So, he explained exactly how the Lord would do it. And she evidently had read about the sign of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son, but had no idea that she would be that virgin. She had also read in the scriptures about, and possibly heard about, God's power being seen as a haze of brilliance. Some people call it a "glory cloud".

**Isaiah 7:11, 14,** Ask thee a **sign** of the Lord... ...the Lord himself shall give you a SIGN; Behold, a **virgin** shall **conceive**, and **bear a son**...

**Exodus 40:33-35,** And he reared up the court round about the **tabernacle** and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work. Then a **cloud** covered the tent of the congregation, and the **glory** of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was **not** able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the **cloud** abode thereon, and the **glory** of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

**1 Kings 8:10-11** ...the **cloud** filled the house of the Lord, So that the priests could not stand to minister... for the **glory** of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.

**Thought 3.** Furthermore, our Father still causes that haze of brilliancy to be seen today by those whose eyes he opens as he moves among us during praise, preaching, and prophesying in our worship of him and Jesus. This is his stamp of approval that he's pleased with what's being done and/or said.

**Matthew 17:3-5,** And, behold, there appeared Moses (*whose body God buried*) and Elias talking with him... behold, a **bright cloud overshadowed** (*same word as in Luke 1:35*) them, and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

**Acts 9:3,** And as he **journeyed** (**walk**), he came near Damascus: and suddenly there SHINED round about him a **light** from heaven: And he **fell** to the earth...

**Thought 4.** This is exactly what happened to the priests in 1 Kings 8:11. The cloud of the glory filled the house of the Lord and they could not stand up! So, first, Saul was not riding anything. They were all walking. Next, he wasn't knocked down by the Lord, he just fell under the glory that was manifested.

**Luke 1:36-38,** 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**. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the **handmaid** of the Lord; **be it unto me according** to thy **WORD**. And the angel departed from her.

**Thought 1.** Once Gabriel finished his explanation as to how the Lord would fulfill his word, she was okay and had peace. She had believed and embraced the announcement. She considered (looked only at) God's word as to whether or not it could happen in her life. This is strong faith produced by reverence for God. (Proverbs 14:26 & Romans 4:17-22)

**Luke 1:39-40,** And Mary arose in **those days**, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of **Juda**; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

**NOTE:** Milligan identified the "city of Judah" mentioned here as a place called "**Juttah**," basing his conclusion upon the following: (1) From the fact that **Juttah** was one of the forty-eight cities that were given to the **priests** (Josh. 15:55; 11:16). (2) It was in the hill country of Judaea; and (3) This is according to the tradition of the **primitive Church**.  
(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)