

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S MESSENGERS ~ Luke 1 & 2 Matthew 1

### DOUBT AND DISBELIEF ~ Luke 1:11-25

[11] Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. [12] When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. [13] But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. [14] He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, [15] for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. [16] Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. [17] And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

#### JOHN WOULD...

- be a JOY and DELIGHT - vs. 14
- be GREAT in the sight of the Lord - vs. 15
- NEVER drink wine or fermented drink - vs. 15
- be FILLED with Holy Spirit from BIRTH - vs. 15
- turn people BACK to the Lord - vs. 16
- go BEFORE the Lord like ELIJAH - vs. 17

[18] Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." [19] The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I STAND in the PRESENCE of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. [20] And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you DID NOT BELIEVE my words, which will come true at their proper time."

### APPLICATION

**Romans 8:28** (NAS) And we know that God CAUSES all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

### SWEET SURRENDER ~ Luke 1:26-38

[26] In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, [27] to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [28] The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." [29] Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. [30] But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found FAVOR with God. [31] You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

#### YOUR SON (JESUS) WILL...

- be GREAT
- be called SON of the Most High (title for God over ALL)
- receive the THRONE of David
- reign OVER the house of Jacob FOREVER (His kingdom will NEVER end)

[34] "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" [35] The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. [36] Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. [37] For nothing is impossible with God." [38] "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

### APPLICATION

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are NOT YOUR OWN; you were BOUGHT at a PRICE. Therefore HONOR God with your body.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31**(JBP) ...whatever you do, eating or drinking or anything else, EVERYTHING should be done to BRING GLORY to God.

## **SIMPLE AND SWIFT OBEDIENCE ~ Matthew 1:18-25**

[18] This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. [20] But after he had considered this, an ANGEL of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: [23] "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"- which means, "God with us." [24] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. [25] But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

**Matthew 2:13-14    Matthew 2:19-20    Matthew 2:22-23**

## **BELIEF AND ACTION ~ Luke 2:8-20**

[8] And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [9] An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] Today in the town of David a SAVIOR has been born to you; he is CHRIST the LORD. [12] This will be A SIGN TO YOU: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." [13] Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, [14] "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

**THREE TITLES FOR JESUS...** Holman NT Com

- SAVIOR
- CHRIST
- the LORD

[15] When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and SEE THIS THING that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." [16] So they HURRIED off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. [17] When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, [18] and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. [19] But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. [20] The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## **TAKE AWAY ??**

- >**Obedience** - is DOING what you are TOLD to do
- >**Obedience** - TRUSTS God with the CONSEQUENCES
- >**Obedience** - does NOT AVOID hard things
- >**Obedience** - refuses to DELAY
- >**Obedience** - PERSEVERES it does not QUIT
- >**Obedience** - gives us a chance to HONOR and GLORIFY God