

## Luke 1:26-38 – The Messiah is Coming

The angel Gabriel came to Zechariah and told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son named John. In so many words, Gabriel said that their son, John, would be the fulfillment of Malachi 3:1 and Malachi 4:5-6. He would be the one to prepare the way for the Messiah. From the New Testament, we know what some of the expectations were about the Messiah. In Mark 9:11 some disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" Obviously they had not studied the book of Malachi. In John 7:42 some people stated, "Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" In John 12:34, people said "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever". In John 4:25, the Samaritan woman said "when he [the Messiah] comes, he will show us all things". Some people who are still waiting for the Messiah say that "the Messianic age is when the Jews will regain their independence and all return to the land of Israel" (from a Bas Torah during 1991 in Columbus, OH). What the people knew from the law was true. Some of their hopes and expectations were wrong.

### **Read Luke 1:26-38.**

The angel Gabriel made a second visit to Israel. This time he came to Nazareth in Galilee. Compare and contrast the two locations where Gabriel brought God's message.

What background information did Luke give about Mary? (1:27)

What greeting did Gabriel give to Mary? (1:28)

How did Mary react to the greeting? Compare Mary's reaction to Zechariah's reaction. (1:29)

What words of comfort did Gabriel give to Mary? What would you think if an angel told you that you had found favor with God? Would you think "great" or would you think "what does God want from me"? (1:30)

In verse 31, what did Gabriel say would happen to Mary? What does the name "Jesus" mean. This is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name "Joshua".

What would be true of Jesus? What is the meaning and significance of these statements? What Old Testament passages are referred to here? (1:32-33)

In verse 34, what question did Mary ask? Was this a reasonable question? Compare Mary's question with Zechariah's question. How did Gabriel react to Mary's question?

How did Gabriel answer Mary's question? How would Mary give birth to Jesus? What is the significance of Jesus being called "Son of God"? (1:35)

Why did Gabriel mention Elizabeth's pregnancy? How would Mary giving birth be similar to Elizabeth giving birth? (1:36)

What truth is taught in verse 37?

How did Mary respond to God's message delivered by Gabriel? How is Mary's response a model for how we should respond to God's word? (1:38)

Contrast Mary and Zechariah.

Contrast the person and ministry of John the Baptist with the person and ministry of Jesus based on Gabriel's proclamations.

This passage emphasized three times that Mary was a virgin. Why is the virgin birth important?

What can we learn about faith from Mary?