

Luke 1: 26 - 38; 2: 1 - 20

The CHRISTmas Story--The Birth of Jesus

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.’

“How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’

The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.’

‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’ Then the angel left her.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the

time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’

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.’

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

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The CHRISTmas Story, most importantly, is a story about CHRIST, the miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! We must NEVER forget that! Jesus was born of a virgin, God in the flesh. His birth was in an obscure place called Bethlehem, announced by ANGELS who appeared to shepherds, who were the ordinary working folks of the

day. The first words of the angels in both appearances in this story are indeed words for us today, "DON'T be afraid!" As we face this China Virus, we have reason to be afraid. As we face a possible Biden presidency, we have reason to be afraid. But whatever happens NEXT, remember in 2021 and years into the future that THESE days today in 2020 were the "GOOD OLD DAYS!" No matter who is declared the winner of this election, please remember THREE things:

1. God is NOT surprised by anything that happens or that we do!
2. God is still in control, and
3. JESUS IS LORD!!

Someone named Amber posted this humble prayer on Twitter: "Dear Jesus. Please let us keep Trump. It of course is up to You, but I am asking You to please assign every available warrior angel in heaven to fight for us here in the USA to expose the massive election fraud and stop the steal. Amen."

My response to this prayer is "PLEASE LET US KEEP TRUMP!!!" Indeed, this is spiritual warfare, war in heaven to give a few more years to this experiment in Democracy begun by the LORD in 1776--NOT 1619!!!

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