

Luke 1:26-33

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:26-33

³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

What Child is This By William Chatterton Dix in 1865

This hymn was sung to the tune of an English folk song, "Greensleeves". It has stood the test of time!

It challenges us to journey back to the birth of this child who lay on Mary's lap... to linger there and to consider Him, who He is and why He came into this world!

So, this morning let us take our thoughts captive and consider this Child, "the Babe the Son of Mary."

H.G. Wells said, "I am a historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history."

"He believed that to ignore Jesus is to ignore the central figure of Western civilization."

- Women's rights Before Jesus women were treated inhumanely as animals and property. In fact, Christianity was criticized in the first century as "a women's religion."
- Jesus treated women with dignity & respect. He ministered to all kinds of women "sinners, prostitutes & the unclean".
- In fact women were the first to witness His resurrection!

- **Human Rights** How did "Human rights" come to the forefront? Christian ethics, beliefs and teaching... "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you." Matt. 5:44
- **Humanitarian aid** Hospitals, charitable causes... 1 John 3:17 "...if anyone has the worlds goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

- Education Universities, schools for children, etc. all established in early America by churches!
- **Science** up until the early 1900's the most respected Scientist in the World were Christians! Frances Bacon; Galileo; Newton; Copernicus; Kepler; Pascal...

Physicist Paul Davies a non-believer said, "All the early scientists such as Newton, were religious in one way or another. They saw science as a means to uncovering traces of God's handiwork in the universe."

2. The Identity of this Child

- Conceived of the Holy Spirit, Luke 1:31,34,35.
- **Matt. 1:20** ²⁰ ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been **conceived** in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- Named Jesus, Luke 1:31; 2:21. "...She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21
- Called Son of the Highest, Luke 1:32, 35, 76

2. The Identity of this Child

• He will rule as <u>King</u>, His Kingdom is <u>Forever</u>, Luke 1:32,33; 2 Samuel 7:12-17.

Isa. 9:6,7 For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ The dominion will be vast, & its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David & over His kingdom, to establish & sustain it with justice & righteousness from now on & forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

2. The Identity of this Child

He is the Messiah, Matt. 1:18; Luke 2:11,26
 Matt. 1:18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way..."

Luke 2:11,26 11 Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord....²⁵ There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah.

3. This Child cannot be Ignored!

DO you remember the quote from H.G. Wells:

"He believed that to ignore Jesus is to **ignore** the central figure of Western civilization."

One day Jesus asked His disciple: Who do YOU say that I AM?

Is He your Savior? Your King? Your Lord?