



# The Best is yet to Come



We aren't ever told what Gabriel looks like, but when he went to Mary, he told her, "Do not be afraid." Was it his sudden appearance that startled her? Did he shine in resplendent glory? Was he imposing in stature? Did he resemble a warrior? Whatever it was, he calmed her, "You have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

The power of the Holy Spirit overshadowed the young woman, and she became pregnant with the God-man who had existed before all time and who now would come to save the people from their sins. The fullness of the glory of God, the exact representation of his nature, the totality of his divinity now existed in the womb of Mary of the tribe of Judah, in a little city called Nazareth.

Heaven came down. God, who had been distant from his creation and had, since Eden, spoken through intermediaries to his people, now drew near to save. Jesus was the Word made flesh.

Joseph, the man Mary was betrothed to, found out she was pregnant and was ready to send her away, to divorce her and depart from her, but Gabriel was sent to him as well, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

In the womb of this woman, watched over by this man, was the greatest treasure of all. This was Immanuel. God was "with us." Jesus came to dwell among mankind, for how else could he possibly save them, if not first to be made like them, and second to come to them?

I wonder so often what those conversations must have been like as the child, Jesus, grew in Mary's womb. What loving mother hasn't pondered the flutter of life she felt from the child she enclosed? What loving father hasn't put his hand to the belly of his growing bride and felt the push of the little one testing his boundaries? What loving parents haven't talked late into the night about what this little child might become? For thousands of years before this moment and for thousands of years since, parents have thought and wondered about the life within the womb. "What will he grow up to do? Will he look more like you or me? Will he love the Lord? Do you think he will be tall like your father? I hope he has your eyes? So long as he doesn't have my nose. I can't wait to hold him in my arms."

But the conversations between Mary and Joseph must have been of higher things. "This child is going to be the Messiah. This is the one prophesied by Isaiah. This is the one who will redeem mankind. This is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. This is the one who will crush the head of the enemy. This is the one who was before all things. This is the good shepherd. This is the foretold King in the line of David. This is the prophet who is like Moses. This is the one who will be clothed in the power of the living God, for he is one with the living God. Did you feel him kick? He's strong. Jesus. Immanuel. God with us at last."

What awe must have struck the hearts of this couple. How different this coming of God would be for Joseph and Mary than was the coming of God to Adam and Eve. The first came with a curse; this time, God came with a blessing.

But that will be a story for tomorrow.

Don't worry.

The best is yet to come.