

## Act 2 – Say What Now?

“Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.”<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her; “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God.<sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.<sup>32</sup> 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,<sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.”<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”  
- Luke 1:29-34

### In this Series, We Are Learning That...

1. The events preceding the Christmas story are critical to understanding and appreciating Christmas.
2. Jesus must be the focus of Christmas for us to celebrate properly.

### Mary's Concern

1. Mary was afraid. (*diatarasso* — to trouble or agitate greatly).  
“...and she, having seen, was troubled at his word, and was reasoning of what kind this salutation may be.”  
- Luke 1:29 (Young's literal translation)
2. She was “wondering” about what would happen next.  
*What kind of greeting?*  
Angels, in the Old Testament, had shown up to:
3. Gabriel told her not to be afraid because she was in God's favour.  
(Note: this doesn't mean that she had a special relationship with God.)  
“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days He has shown His favour and taken away my disgrace among the people.”  
- Luke 1:25  
“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests.”  
- Luke 2:14

### God's Message through Gabriel

1. Mary would be pregnant.  
“You will be with child...”  
- Luke 1:31
2. She would carry the baby to full-term.  
“You will be with child and give birth...”  
- Luke 1:31
3. The baby would be a boy.  
“You will be with child and give birth to a son...”  
- Luke 1:31
4. The baby's name needed to be Jesus. (Yeshua; יֵשׁוּעַ — salvation).  
“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.”  
- Luke 1:31
5. This baby would be great.  
“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”  
- Luke 1:32

6. This baby would be called the Son of the Most High (El Elyon). This is the highest name that you can have for God.

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”  
- Luke 1:32  
“The tempter came to Him and said, “If you are the **Son of God**, tell these stones to become bread.””  
- Matthew 4:3  
“What do you want with us, **Son of God**?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”  
- Matthew 8:29  
“Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly you are the **Son of God**.””  
- Matthew 14:33  
“...and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the **Son of God**.””  
- Matthew 27:40  
“When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely He was the **Son of God**!””  
- Matthew 27:54

7. This baby would be a king in the line of David. (There hasn't been a king from this line for hundreds of years!)

“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.”  
- Luke 1:32  
“The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until He comes to whom it belongs, and the obedience of the nations is His.”  
- Genesis 49:10

8. This baby would reign as king and His kingdom will also be eternal.

“...and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.” - Lk 1:33

### Mary's Response

1. Mary wondered how she could possibly be pregnant. She must have asked this question in a very gracious way.  
“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”  
- Luke 1:34  
“Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years.”<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> 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.”  
- Luke 1:18-20
2. Mary affirmed the fact that she was a virgin.  
“And Mary said, “How shall this be, seeing a husband I do not know?” - Luke 1:34 (Young's)

### Three Lessons:

1. When the Lord speaks, listen carefully!
2. Remember, Christmas isn't about you.
3. Obedience is the key to usefulness. God uses those who strive to remain holy.  
“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.<sup>21</sup> Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”  
- 2 Timothy 2:20-21

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2. She was “\_\_\_\_\_” as to what would happen next.  
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