

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 Dec 2020	Luke 1:1-25	Planned
2) 13 Dec	Luke 1:26-80	Conceived
3) 20 Dec	Luke 2:1-19	Proclaimed
4) 27 Dec	Luke 2:20-40	Anticipated
5) 03 Jan 2021	Luke 2:41-52	Matured
6) 10 Jan	Luke 3:1-38	Prepared
7) 17 Jan	Luke 6:27-49	Compassionate
8) 24 Jan	Luke 4:1-44	Rejected
9) 31 Jan	Luke 5:1-16; 27-39	Followed
10) 07 Feb	Luke 5:17-26	Forgives
11) 14 Feb	Luke 6:1-26	Reigns
12) 21 Feb	Luke 7:1-50	Loved
13) 28 Feb	Luke 9:1-62	Unashamed

INTRODUCTION

- Gabriel foretells Jesus' birth to Mary and John the Baptist is born

Passage	Comments
1:26-38	<p>Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth to Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Bio info on Mary & Joseph from Wikipedia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some apocryphal accounts state Mary was 12–14 years old at the time of her betrothal to Joseph ♦ According to ancient Jewish custom, Mary could have been betrothed at about 12 years of age ♦ Hyppolitus of Thebes says Mary lived for 11 years after the death of her son Jesus, dying in 41 AD. ♦ At one time, Joseph was assumed to be elderly when he married Mary (as old as 90). However, most now believe Mary & Joseph were probably in their teens when Jesus was born (16 to 18 years old respectively), since this was the norm for Jewish newlyweds at that time. (src: Univ. of Dayton) • To accept the Lord's will for her life, Mary was going to be labeled a loose woman, an adulterer, a liar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Since there was no hanky-panky on Joseph's part, he naturally presumed Mary was unfaithful or had been raped & was lying about it. What would you think & do? ♦ Could you, like Joseph, try to end the engagement quietly and graciously so Mary's reputation wouldn't be smudged more than what it could be? Mat 1:18-20 • - WHAT A MAN! • v34. "How can this be since I am a virgin?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why didn't Mary get disciplined for asking a question of Gabriel like Zechariah did? ♦ Consider this. Zechariah was disciplined for his lack of faith; Mary asked out of curiosity – How was this going to be done – Miraculous or by Natural means? • v37. "For nothing will be impossible with God" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ - WHAT A GOD! • v38. "Behold, your bond-slave..." - WHAT A WOMAN!
Time to Make the Brain Hurt	<p>Why Would God Impregnate Someone's Wife?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall that within Jewish custom, an engaged or betrothed couple were considered married, even though they hadn't consummated the marriage yet • So, didn't God's impregnation of Mary go against His own Law not to take another man's wife..... Lev 20:10 • ...and couldn't God be accused of committing the same sin as David did with Bathsheba by impregnating another man's wife? 2Sam 11:1-5 • Consider the Following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God's ways are not our ways..... Isaiah 55:8-9 ♦ God is holy and righteous. He can do no wrong, He cannot sin, He is blameless & just Deut 32:4 ♦ God is Lord of the Sabbath [Mat 12:8]. IOW, only God can make, break, terminate, modify, & fulfill His Laws. Man can only keep or break them...Nm 9:6-13; Mk 7:19 • So, God's intervention had a very noble purpose for ALL

Passage	Comments
1:39-45	<p>Mary Visits Elizabeth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary, who was from the house of David (i.e., Judah), and Elizabeth (a Levite) may have been 1st or 2nd cousins if their mothers or grandmothers were sisters, or possibly niece and aunt either by blood or marriage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Know This. Tribal heritage among the Israelites was passed down through fathers, not mothers; Children were always of their father's tribe, not their mother's. • vv41-45. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she realized Mary's special pregnancy (this was a one-time occurrence, never to be repeated) • Luke probably got all these details directly from Mary
1:46-56	<p>Mary's Praise of God's Goodness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary echoes many of the teachings from the Psalms • v48. Mary was definitely blessed by God for being chosen to raise His Son, but Catholics went too far with venerating her beyond God's intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Mary was not a perpetual virgin, ♦ Nor was she sinless (she too needed saving), ♦ Nor was she a co-redeemer with Christ, ♦ Nor should we pray to her, ♦ Nor was she assumed into Heaven
1:57-66	<p>The Birth and Naming of John the Baptist (JTB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the right time, Zechariah's voice returned and then the people had "fear" of what was transpiring • It would take years for the child to grow for the people to see where things would finally lead → to Christ • Why does God take His sweet time to reveal His will? • ...and why doesn't God seal up more men's mouths?
1:67-80	<p>Zechariah's Prophecy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit spoke of God's intended blessings and salvation for Jews and Gentiles • vv77-80. The result of these prophecies is John would grow spiritually strong, leading many people not only to salvation but also to a growing faith through wise biblical counseling for he knew God's word Luke 3:10-14

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and Elizabeth were in a unique situation. Jesus would pay for the sins of the whole world ([1John 2:2](#)), while John would pay a hefty price himself to pave the way for his Savior.
- We should herald Christ and be prepared to offer biblical counsel to those who cross out paths like John the Baptist frequently did.

NEXT WEEK: Luke 2:1-19. Jesus is born amidst humble surroundings

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SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID.
GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT.