

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 06 Dec 2020	Luke 1:1-25	Planned
<b>2) 13 Dec</b>	<b>Luke 1:26-80</b>	<b>Conceived</b>
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><b>Gabriel Foretells Jesus' Birth to Mary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Bio info on Mary &amp; Joseph from <a href="#">Wikipedia</a>:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Some apocryphal accounts state Mary was 12–14 years old at the time of her betrothal to Joseph</li> <li>♦ According to ancient Jewish custom, Mary could have been betrothed at about 12 years of age</li> <li>♦ Hyppolitus of Thebes says Mary lived for 11 years after the death of her son Jesus, dying in 41 AD.</li> <li>♦ At one time, Joseph was assumed to be elderly when he married Mary (as old as 90). However, most now believe Mary &amp; 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: <a href="#">Univ. of Dayton</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ Since there was no hanky-panky on Joseph's part, he naturally presumed Mary was unfaithful or had been raped &amp; was lying about it. What would you think &amp; do?</li> <li>♦ 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? ..... <a href="#">Mat 1:18-20</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>WHAT A MAN!</b></li> <li>• v34. "How can this be since I am a virgin?"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why didn't Mary get disciplined for asking a question of Gabriel like Zechariah did?</li> <li>♦ 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?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v37. "For nothing will be impossible with God"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>WHAT A GOD!</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v38. "Behold, your bond-slave..." - <b>WHAT A WOMAN!</b></li> </ul>
Time to Make the Brain Hurt	<p><b>Why Would God Impregnate Someone's Wife?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall that within Jewish custom, an engaged or betrothed couple were considered married, even though they hadn't consummated the marriage yet</li> <li>• So, didn't God's impregnation of Mary go against His own Law not to take another man's wife..... <a href="#">Lev 20:10</a></li> <li>• ...and couldn't God be accused of committing the same sin as David did with Bathsheba by impregnating another man's wife? ..... <a href="#">2Sam 11:1-5</a></li> <li>• Consider the Following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God's ways are not our ways..... <a href="#">Isaiah 55:8-9</a></li> <li>♦ God is holy and righteous. He can do no wrong, He cannot sin, He is blameless &amp; just ..... <a href="#">Deut 32:4</a></li> <li>♦ God is Lord of the Sabbath [<a href="#">Mat 12:8</a>]. IOW, only God can make, break, terminate, modify, &amp; fulfill His Laws. Man can only keep or break them...<a href="#">Nm 9:6-13</a>; <a href="#">Mk 7:19</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• So, God's intervention had a very noble purpose for ALL</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:39-45	<p><b>Mary Visits Elizabeth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary, who was from the house of David (i.e., Judah), and Elizabeth (a Levite) may have been 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins if their mothers or grandmothers were sisters, or possibly niece and aunt either by blood or marriage.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Luke probably got all these details directly from Mary</li> </ul>
1:46-56	<p><b>Mary's Praise of God's Goodness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary echoes many of the teachings from the Psalms</li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ Mary was not a perpetual virgin,</li> <li>♦ Nor was she sinless (she too needed saving),</li> <li>♦ Nor was she a co-redeemer with Christ,</li> <li>♦ Nor should we pray to her,</li> <li>♦ Nor was she assumed into Heaven</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:57-66	<p><b>The Birth and Naming of John the Baptist (JTB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the right time, Zechariah's voice returned and then the people had "fear" of what was transpiring</li> <li>• It would take years for the child to grow for the people to see where things would finally lead → to Christ</li> <li>• Why does God take His sweet time to reveal His will?</li> <li>• ...and why doesn't God seal up more men's mouths?</li> </ul>
1:67-80	<p><b>Zechariah's Prophecy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit spoke of God's intended blessings and salvation for Jews and Gentiles</li> <li>• 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 ..... <a href="#">Luke 3:10-14</a></li> </ul>

**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.