



Behold The King

Behold the Hope of the World

December 23 & 24, 2023

Luke 1:26-35, 38 & 2:1-20 (NLT)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

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Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Remember: “Life starts looking up when I start looking up!”

4 Hopeless People in the Christmas Story:

- **Mary became hopeless because her situation was _____.**

Luke 1:29 (NLT)

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

Greek words *dia parazo* – to be deeply shaken, hopeless and troubled.

- **Joseph became hopeless because he felt _____ and abandoned.**

Matthew 1:19 (NLT)

Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

- **The shepherds felt hopeless because they were _____.**

Luke 2:8-9 (NLT)

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified.

Greek word *forbeto* – terror, phobia

- **The Wise Men felt hopeless because they were exhausted and _____ trying to find Jesus.**

Matthew 2:9-10 (NLT)

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

4 Ways to Have My Hope Restored

1

**Learn from Mary to focus on _____
not my problems.**

Luke 1:37-38 (NLT)

For the word of God will never fail. Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Psalms 91:14-16 (ISV)

Because he has focused his love on me, I will deliver him. I will protect him because he knows my name. When he calls out to me, I will answer him. I will be with him in his distress. I will deliver him, and I will honor him. I will satisfy him with long life; I will show him my deliverance.

Colossians 3:1 (AMP)

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2

**Learn from Joseph to _____ God's plan whether I
understand it or not.**

Matthew 1:20-21, 24 (NLT)

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (ICB)

You don't know where the wind will blow. And you don't know how a baby grows in its mother's body. In the same way, God certainly made all things. But you can't understand what he is doing.

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17 (NCV)

I tried to understand all that happens on earth. I saw how busy people are, working day and night and hardly ever sleeping. I also saw all that God has done. Nobody can understand what God does here on earth. No matter how hard people try to understand it, they cannot. Even if wise people say they understand, they cannot; no one can really understand it.

Proverbs 3:5-7 (ICB)

Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in everything you do. And he will give you success. Don't depend on your own wisdom. Respect the Lord and refuse to do wrong.

3

Learn from the shepherds how to _____
my fears and step out in faith.

Luke 2:10, 15-16 (TPT)

But the angel reassured them, saying, "Don't be afraid, for I have come to bring you good news, the most joyous news the world has ever heard! And it is for everyone everywhere! When the choir of angels disappeared and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go! Let's hurry and find this Word who is born in Bethlehem and see for ourselves what the Lord has revealed to us. So, they hurried off and found their way to Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby lying in the feeding trough.

Psalm 34:4 (TPT)

Listen to my testimony: I cried to God in my distress and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears!

Psalm 56:3 (NLT)

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.

_____ verses say "Do not be afraid."

4

Learn from the Wise Men that _____ in
pursuing Jesus brings hope to my world.

Matthew 2:9-12 (GW)

After they had heard the king, they started out. The star they had seen rising led them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were overwhelmed with joy to see the star. When they entered the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary. So, they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So, they left for their country by another road.

1 Timothy 4:10 (ICB)

For this is why we work and struggle: We hope in the living God. He is the Savior of all people. And in a very special way, he is the Savior of all who believe in him.

1 John 5:13 (NLT)

I have written this to you who believe in the name of the son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.



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Colossians 3:1 (AMP)

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, sharing in His resurrection from the dead], keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2

Learn from Joseph to obey God's plan whether I understand it or not.

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As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

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Psalm 56:3 (NLT)

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.

367 verses say "Do not be afraid."

4

Learn from the Wise Men that persistence in pursuing Jesus brings hope to my world.

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