

“The Great Christmas Announcement”

Luke 1:26-56

Sermon Series: “The Christmas Story”

Introduction: We usually want to announce good news, and we do it in a variety of ways. Sometimes we tell people in person, sometimes we call or text them, sometimes we use social media to announce things, and sometimes we even have parties to make an announcement. Governments, businesses, athletes, and celebrities often use the media to make announcements. However, when God chose to make the incredible announcement that He was coming into the world He used an angel to make the announcement and did not make the announcement to the whole world but to a teenage girl who would be the earthly mother of Jesus. **What is this great Christmas announcement that the angel made?**

1. God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ (v. 26-33). Who is Jesus presented to be in this text?

A. He is fully human (“you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son”).

B. He is the Savior (the name Jesus means “Jehovah is salvation”).

C. He is great.

D. He is God (“the Son of the Highest,” John 5:17-18).

E. He is the Messiah (“the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David”).

F. He is the eternal King (v. 33).

He is the centerpiece of history, Christmas and life itself.

2. God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ through the means of the virgin conception (v. 34-37). This is one of the claims of Christianity that trips up some people. People say this is a scientific impossibility and religious myth so it is not

something to take seriously and believe. **So, what are some reasons to believe the virgin birth of Christ?**

A. If there is a God, then miracles are certainly possible. If God created everything, then He could certainly do this. If Jesus rose from the dead, then the virgin birth is certainly possible. The angel was claiming that God was going to do the impossible.

B. The eyewitnesses, while certainly not having the scientific knowledge we do today, understood how babies were made. That is why Mary was confused and Joseph was skeptical.

C. Luke was a historian and doctor presenting facts.

D. If God came into the world, it seems reasonable to expect an unusual birth, and the rest of His life verifies that He is God.

E. It is a fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 7:14).

F. It is theologically necessary.

Conclusion: How should we respond to Jesus? I think that we would do well to follow the example of Mary. Verse 38 is an incredible statement of faith. She said, “Behold, the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” **Basically, she responded with faith that produced surrender and resulted in worship.** She took God at His Word and acted on it. The angel told her that she was favored, graced, and blessed. Jewish women would have considered it a supreme blessing to be the mother of the Messiah. However, this was going to make her life harder even though it was a blessing because of the way people were going to respond to her being pregnant and unmarried. She was about to be misunderstood, slandered, and ostracized. Following Jesus will make our lives better but not necessarily easier. In essence, she was saying, “Whatever you say, Lord. I trust you. Have it your way. I am your humble servant. Your will be done in my life.” Verses 46-55 record her magnifying, or worshipping, the Lord. **Will we respond to Jesus by trusting Him enough to surrender to Him as Lord and live like He is Lord?**