

MARY, THE MOTHER

Mary's life has been in a whirlwind for the past nine months. In fact, Mary's life will never be the same since the day Gabriel visited with a special assignment from the plan of God (Luke 1:26-38).

Think for a moment how a personal experience with the plan of God has effected changes in your life. I can look around this congregation and know personally how it has affected so many of you.

In the beginning, it appeared difficult for both Mary and Joseph to believe that out of all the believers in the nation of Israel that God had chosen them to be the earthly parents of the Christ child.

- Mary asked: "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34)
- Joseph said: "This can never be!" (Matt.1:19)

Yet both of their lives will change dramatically because they desire to live godly in an ungodly world. They desire to surrender their wills to the will of God:

- "I desire to do your will, O God; your law is within my heart." (Ps.40:8)
- "Be it done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

Today's lesson comes from a special Greek phrase that is used twice to establish two important events in Luke 2:1-7. The special phrase is, "Now it came about (de ginomai / a.m.ind)."

We will study our lesson text three homiletical points under each of these two special phrases.

"Now it came about" (Luke 2:1-5) – God is in control of human history.

- Census Roman (Luke 2:1-2)
- City Register (Luke 2:3)
- Couple Royal (Luke 2:4-5)

"Now it came about" (Luke 2:6-7) – God is in control of the lives of spiritual mature believers.

- Bethlehem Messiah (Luke 2:6)
- Birth Mother (Luke 2:7a)
- Barn Manger (Luke 2:7b)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Mary, the Mother
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1. Luke Ch.2 opens with Mary about to become the mother of Christ.

Luke, the physician, declares that Mary is close to term in her pregnancy. It is at his time that they traveled to Bethlehem to register for the Roman census. "Mary was (eimi / p.a.ptc) with child (egkuos) (Luke 2:5).

Luke established in chapter one that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:31-35). "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

Matthew established the same doctrine in Matt.1:20-23. "For that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." (Matt.1:20)

2. Luke shows how important a consistent walk of faith is to believers fulfilling their assignments in the plan of God.

Luke shows it in the second special phrase: “**It came about that while** (en+loc of time) **they were** (to eimi / p.a.infin) **there** (ekei), the days were completed (pimplemi / a.p.ind) **for her to give birth.**” (Luke 2:6)

Christ is about to enter human history in perfect timing according to the word of God that is being fulfilled by the faith cycle operating in the lives of Mary and Joseph (2 Cor.5:7; Ps.40:8).

3. The birth story of Jesus Christ teaches us that God controls human history and its events as they relate to fulfillment of His perfect plan.

How important was Mary’s and Joseph’s faith in that principle? How important is it for you?

“But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Gal.4:4-5)

Six Questions

- Why did God choose a virgin from the tribe of Judah? [Messianic prophesy of Isa.7:14; 8:8]
- Why did Jesus Christ have to be born in Bethlehem? [Messianic prophesy of Micah 5:2]
- Why did God send the Magi a year later? [Messianic prophecies of Micah 5:2; Hos.11:1; Jer.31:15 (Matt.2:6, 15, 17-18)]
- Why did God send His Son into the world? [Messianic Savior: Luke 2:11; 1 John 4:14; 1 Tim.1:15]
- What did God do to ensure that His son was born Scriptural? [4th cycle of divine discipline and the Roman census of Luke 2:1-7; Deut.28]
- How important is the word of God to fulfilling the plan of God in human through the lives of believers?

4. As a physician, Luke explained that while Mary had a miraculous conception, she had a natural child birth.

Luke describes Mary’s natural child-birth this way: “The days (hai hemera) were completed (pimplemi / a.p.ind) for her to give birth (tou tikto / a.a.infin).” (Luke 2:6b)

Paul describes it as “born of a woman” in Gal.4:4-5. Mary will go through the prophetic pain of childbirth of Gen.3:16 and John 16:21.

Mary’s fulfillment of Gen.3:15 connect all women believers to the historical birth of Jesus Christ. “But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.” (1 Tim.2:15)

5. Mary’s first-born son is classified differently than God’s only begotten Son.

Mary: “And she gave birth (tikto / a.a.ind) to her first-born son (ton prototokos huios).” (Luke 2:7a) “For not even His brothers were believing in Him.” (John 7:5; Matt.12:46)

God: “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (Matt.3:17) “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.” (Rom.8:29; Col.1:15, 18; Heb.12:23)

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