

ACCORDING TO THY WORD

Texts: John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:38

As unapologetic Bible believers, a very important part of our faith is that the Word of God is not only valuable to us in a devotional sense, but in a very practical way as we thoroughly study the Bible, we find answers and proof for what and why we believe what we believe.

We have entered a special time of the year: Christmas or the Christmas season. To Christians, worldwide, there is no confusion about what this means. One can argue about the dates in which Christ was actually born, but for those of us in Christendom, we seize the opportunity to celebrate that Christ did, in fact, come! This was a promise given approximately 740 years before He was born by the prophet Isaiah: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Let's examine this history changing and, for the believer, life-changing event, according to the Word of God.

I. THE PRIVILEGED ANGEL

Luke 1:26

In Hebrew the name "Gabriel" means God is my strength. We observe in Scripture that this name is specifically seen in the Old Testament in Daniel and in the New Testament in Luke. Gabriel always has a message from God. And of course, the most important message was the one announcing the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Literally, the word "angel" means messenger. It is an appropriate point to be made to remind all of us as Christians that we have a message to be told. In Matthew 28:5-7 we read, "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." We see the angel (I believe this was again Gabriel) telling the two Marys that Christ is risen from the grave. Then the angel told the ladies to "...go quickly, and tell..." This reminds all of us that we, like the messenger angel, have been commissioned to give the message of Jesus. And to be enthusiastic about it!

II. THE PROGENITORS DOCUMENTED

Luke 1:27-30

Gabriel gives this most important message to Mary in Luke 1:31, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." As we examine the progenitors of the Christ-child, we marvel at what the detailed genealogies reveal. In Matthew's Gospel, we see recorded the

genealogy through Joseph. In Luke, we see the genealogy through Mary. Let's observe these important details for God's message.

- A. Joseph's father is a man named Jacob (Matthew 1:16).
- B. Mary's father is a man named Heli (Eli) (Luke 3:23).
- C. Joseph's lineage continues through David's son, Solomon (Matthew 1:6).
- D. Mary's lineage continues through David's son, Nathan (Luke 3:31).
- E. Joseph's lineage is a different route through Jechonias (another spelling is Jechoniah and Coniah) (Matthew 1:11, 12 and I Chronicle 3:17).
- F. Joseph has a problem in his physical lineage (Jeremiah 22:24-30).
- G. Mary is granted a physical inheritance (Numbers 27:1-8; 36:6-8).

III. THE PERFECT SAVIOR

Luke 1:31-33; Matthew 1:21

Through Joseph, the stepfather, we have the promise of the Messiah, Christ as documented in Matthew 1:16. Through Mary we see that God Himself is the Father of the Son of God, Jesus in Luke 1:35 and Luke 3:38.

We see a glorious prophecy given by the prophet in Ezekiel 21:26, 27: "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him." God will overturn heaven and earth to bring forth His Son as the Rightful Heir, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in the second coming of Christ on earth. It is documented in Christ's first coming that He is the one "...Whose Right It Is" as also reflected in Genesis 49:10: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh (He Whose Right It Is) come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

Fallen mankind is in need of a Savior. We needed a second Adam for our lineage to find redemption. I Corinthians 15:45: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." And this Adam gives the promise of a new lineage, through a second birth! John 3:3, 6, 7: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

THE PHENOMENAL BIRTH

Luke 1:34-38

- A. Mary, the undisputed virgin – Luke 1:34
- B. The Holy Spirit's ministry – Luke 1:35
- C. The concentric circle of miracles – Luke 1:36
- D. The unlimited power of God – Luke 1:37
- E. All according to the Word of God – Luke 1:38

Conclusion:

The Lord Jesus said, in Matthew 5:18, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Our Lord was referencing the smallest punctuation and lettering in the Hebrew alphabet to drive the point home that the, "...scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35b) and "...the word of God is not bound" (II Timothy 2:9b).

Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." After our Lord rose from the grave He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and He said, Luke 24:26 and 27, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

Jesus was always on mission to fulfill the Scriptures as seen in Luke 18:31: "Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished." This was prophesied in Isaiah 50:7: "For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." This was fulfilled in Luke 9:51: "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem."

Isaiah 55:11: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." We can identify with old Simeon when he saw the Savior and as he took his Salvation up in his arms he said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:29, 30).

-Pastor Pope-