

Luke on Jesus' Birth **The Baby Born To Mary** **Luke 1:26-56**

What did Mary already know about the coming Messiah?

From prophecies like Isaiah 9:6-7, Mary already would have known that the Messiah would be a baby boy, who is Himself the Mighty God, who would be king in the line of David whose kingdom would never end.

What did the angel tell Mary?

You will conceive and bear a son; you shall call his name Jesus; He will be great and the Son of the Most High; God will give him the throne of his father David; He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will have no end.

Mary's question was not — WILL this happen. Her question was — HOW can this happen through ME, since I am a virgin?

The angel told her she would become pregnant by God's power, without sexual relations, and therefore her baby would be both fully man and fully God.

How do Elizabeth and her baby respond to Mary? (vv.39-45)

Her baby is John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah who is fully God. That's why he leaps for joy.

Elizabeth says that Mary is the mother of her — Elizabeth's — Lord.

So Luke confirms to us that Mary's baby is the Messiah who is fully God.

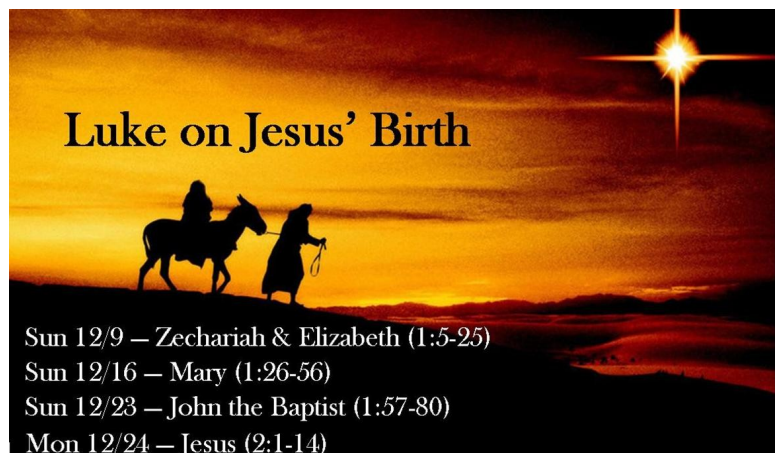
How does Mary respond to all this? (vv.46-56)

She praises God for doing great things for a humble, undeserving girl like her.

She praises God for doing great things for the humble who admit their need — and for sending away the proud who don't.

She praises God for fulfilling His promise of mercy to Israel.

SO— Luke wants to urge us not to be proud, but admit our need before God and His Messiah — so we can be forgiven, changed, and satisfied.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

How is your Christmas season going? Do you sense a growing depth of worship towards Jesus Christ? What's helped? What's hindered?

Have you ever struggled to believe in the virgin birth? Why or why not? What questions does this raise?

Does it make sense that — since there is a God who has created everything, that He could easily have Jesus be born of a virgin? Why or why not?

Part of Luke's purpose in telling us about these events is to persuade us to humbly admit our need of a Savior, and put our trust in the Messiah to forgive, change, and satisfy us. What's helping you do that? What's keeping you from doing that?

How does this passage from Luke help you worship Jesus Christ this Christmas season?

What questions did Sunday's message raise in your mind?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

