

I. Verses 26-27

- A. This all takes place when Elizabeth is six months along with John.
- B. We already know who Gabriel is from Daniel 9-10 and the preceding passage in Luke 1.
- C. We go from Zacharias in the temple to Mary in Nazareth.
- D. And Mary is a betrothed virgin.

II. Verses 28-33

- A. The point of Gabriel's greeting is that God has favored Mary!
- B. Notice her reaction: she's perplexed!
- C. Gabriel tells Mary that she will receive what God promised Eve.

III. Verses 34-38

- A. Remember Zacharias' reaction to Gabriel's news that he would have a son: “How do I know?”
- B. Mary asks instead, “How will this take place?”
- C. Zacharias had examples in history of old people having babies.
- D. Mary has no such example. It had never happened before, it will never happen again.
- E. Now we find out the point of bringing up that Mary's a virgin.
- F. Zacharias reacts to Gabriel with fear and then suspicion.
- G. Mary reacts to Gabriel with perplexity and then faith: “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord.”

IV. Verses 39-45

- A. This takes place quickly.
- B. By the time she visits Elizabeth, she is pregnant with the child of God.
- C. She enters the house, greets Elizabeth.
- D. John the Baptist leaps in his mother's womb. She is filled with the Holy Spirit and begins to bless Mary.
- E. The action has slowed in Luke's gospel. Now it comes to full stop.

V. Verses 46-55

- A. Mary is blessed simply and solely because of what God has done for her.
- B. In the conception of this child God is already overthrowing the great and lifting up the low.
- C. He is doing this in accordance with His promises to Israel.

VI. A few practical thoughts.

- A. Listen to the Christian teaching on children.
- B. Look to the child in Mary's womb for all your hopes.
- C. Examine yourself to see whether you are among the proud or the humble.
- D. Pick a side.

VII. Praise!

- A. The coming of Jesus Christ has transformed Mary.
- B. She is beautiful – and so are ugly sinners who trust in Jesus Christ, who became something no one wanted to look at for our sake.
- C. She is holy – and so are vulgar people who trust in Jesus Christ, who became like us in all ways, yet without sin, so that He could reconcile us to God.
- D. She is full of praise – for the same reason we praise.