

10/14/18

**The Woman Mary, Pt. 2**

In our initial study of Mary we saw the servant heart of Mary, seeing herself a sinner like any other, a person of privilege to be called and used by God.

Three movements marked the annunciation. Lk. 1:26-56

- I. Mary and Gabriel revealed to us the communication.
- II. Mary and Elizabeth revealed to us the confirmation.
- III. Mary and God, revealed to us the exaltation.

Now, we want to look at Mary in relation to the Incarnation, also marked by three movements. Lk. 2:1-39; Matt. 2:1-8

- I. Mary and the proclamation of Caesar. Lk. 2:1-20
- II. Mary and the dedication of Jesus. Lk. 2:21-39
- III. Mary and the visitation of Magi. Matt. 2:1-22  
\* Matthew and Luke will be our sources.

- I. **Mary and the proclamation of Caesar.**  
**Lk. 2:1-20**

A. Mary was to know that God was in control of human affairs. vs. 1-5

1. The instrument of God for the census decreed was Caesar Augustus, who thought he was in control. vs.1
  - a. His real name of Caesar was Caius Octavius who came to be the Emperor.
  - b. The Roman Empire had been ruled by generals but now by one man, which led to Caesar worship later on.
  - c. The Roman Senate suggested different titles for him.
    - 1) Dictator, he said, was too temporary.
    - 2) King, he said, didn't signify enough.
    - 3) They came up with Augustus from Augustus, like the gods.
2. The census first took place while Quirinius or Cyrenianus was governor of Syria, everyone to his own city. vs. 2-3
  - a. The purpose was for taxation in the Roman Empire.
  - b. Critics tried to fault the Scriptures but archaeological twice, at B.C. and 6 A.D., as well as confirming a census every fourteen years in Egypt.
3. The intent of God was to get Mary to Bethlehem. vs. 4-5  
\* The angel of the Lord had already appeared to Joseph regarding Mary's pregnancy and had resolved to obey God.

- a. The city of Bethlehem was in Judea, which means house of bread. vs. 4
    - 1) The prophet Micah had prophesied about His birth in Bethlehem 700 years before, a contemporary of Isaiah. Mi. 5:2
    - 2) God promise His birth to be through David's line. 2Sam. 7:12-16, Rom. 1:3
  - b. The wife of Joseph, Mary was in her ninth month, this was God's plan, not Augustus! vs. 5
    - \* The kings heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever he wishes. Prov. 21:1
- B.** Mary was to know that God was in control of the birth of His Son. vs. 6-7
- 1. The delivery day of Mary was completed, right on time. vs. 6
    - a. God told Isaiah that a virgin would bear a son and call His name Emmanuel, God with us. Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:23
    - b. Paul the apostle declared that when the fullness of God had come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman under the law to redeem us from the curse of the law. Gal. 4:4
    - c. The Son to be born is named Jesus, called the Son of the Highest, the Holy One and the Son of God. Lk. 1:31, 32, 35

- 2. The delivery was to be under difficult circumstances. vs. 7
    - a. There was no room found in the inn for Mary.
    - b. The delivery was in a common courtyard enclosed by walls and water in the center for the animals.
    - c. Mary gave birth alone to her firstborn and wrapped Him in swaddling cloth with a long bandage like string diagonally off the corner.
      - \* The phrase is found two times in the New Testament. vs. 7, 12
    - d. Mary laid Him in a manger, which was a stone feeding trough for the animals, not a wooden manger.
    - e. Paul says Jesus became poor for us that we might be made rich in Him! 2Cor. 8:9
- C.** Mary was to know that God was in control to confirm the arrival of His Son. vs.8-20
- 1. God proclaimed it to lowly shepherds through an angel. vs. 8-9
    - \* Probably the angel is no other than Gabriel, the angel of good news!
      - a. The shepherds most likely were temple shepherds caring for sheep for the temple sacrifice. vs. 8
      - b. The appearance of an angel made them fear. vs. 9

2. God proclaimed that it was good tidings and joy to all people, they were not to fear. vs. 10-11
  - a. The proclamation was regarding the people of Israel for the Greek has the article, the people refers to God's people, Israel. vs. 10
  - b. The promised person was the Messiah, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. vs.11
  - c. The title Savior appears two times in Luke. Luke. 1:47, 2:11
  - d. The title Savior of the world was given to Him by a Samaritan, not Jews. Jn. 4:42
3. God proclaimed the news in order that there be a response. vs. 12-16
  - a. A sign was given to the shepherds; the babe would be wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. vs. 12
  - b. A multitude of angels praised God, declaring peace on earth to men of good will regarding the proclamation. vs. 13-14
  - d. A confirmation of the truth of the word of God was witnessed by the shepherds. vs. 16
4. God proclaimed the message that it be proclaimed to others. vs. 17-20
  - a. The shepherds made known the message of the gospel right away. vs. 17

- b. The people who heard marveled at the message and had a decision to make. vs. 18
- c. The woman Mary kept all those things in her heart and pondered them, as she trusted God. vs. 19
- d. The shepherds returned different men and glorified God and praised Him for all they had heard and seen. vs. 20

### **Illustration**

There was a Catholic monk named Martin Luther who equally found out how much God was in control of the powers that be as he stood p to the Roman Church regarding the pure proclamation of Christ, which led to the Protestant Reformation.

\* He said, "Here I stand, my conscience hold captive to the Scriptures and I can do no other" and he refused to recant.

### **Application**

1. You and I need to constantly remind ourselves about Who is in control of the world's situations. Dan. 4:34-35
2. If we could only see the hand of God in current affairs to accomplish His purposes, we would be amazed as those of the past, perhaps even object as Habakkuk. Hab. 1
3. The clear proclamation regarding the Savior's birth begs me to respond, if there is any room in my heart for Christ? Rev. 3:20

4. We must not exclude ourselves from being used as Mary, being positioned to be alienated with God's plan, so we must be open. Eph. 2:10
5. Each of us must understand the work of salvation is not always a bed of roses but at times under difficulty situations and circumstances but He always enables us to trust Him. Acts. 14:22; 1Cor. 10:13
6. The message is simple and can only be received in faith, have you failed to respond? Eph. 2:8-9; Rev. 3:20
7. The good news is complete only when we have gone to proclaim or people come so we can share the gospel. 2Cor. 5:20

***Mary and the proclamation of Caesar, reveals divine transportation!***

## **II. Mary and the dedication of Jesus. Lk. 2:21-39**

- A. Mary obeyed the Law and had Jesus circumcised. vs. 21
  1. The circumcision of Jesus signified incorporation into the national life of Israel; otherwise He would be cut off.
    - a. The eight day was God's particular. Gen. 17:9-11; Lev. 12:3
    - b. The interesting thing about this is that modern day medicine tells us that the eighth day is the best for coagulation.

2. Circumcision was symbolic of the flesh life and Jesus was being identified with sinful man as the Lamb of God, though He had no sin. 2Cor. 5:21
    - \* Every person born not this world can only live after the flesh, the product of fallen man!
- B. Mary obeyed the Law and presented Jesus to God in the days of her purification. vs. 22-24**
1. According to the Law of Moses at Jerusalem. vs. 22
    - \* The ritual and details were clear. Lev. 12:2-8
  2. According to the Law the first-born belonged to the Lord. vs. 23
    - a. Due to their deliverance from Egypt. Ex. 13:2
    - b. They were to be the priest of the home. Num. 18:15-16
    - c. They were redeemed by God taking the Levites in their place. Num. 3:11-13
  3. According to the Law of poverty. vs. 24
    - a. The two turtledoves or young pigeons were the offering of poverty.
    - b. The specific for a male was 40 days, 7 for uncleanness, plus thirty-three days.
    - c. The specific for a female was 80 days, 14 for uncleanness, plus 66 days.

- d. The offering was two turtledoves or pigeons; one for sin, the other for a burnt offering, symbolic of dedication and consecration.

C. Mary obeyed and heard the fulfillment of the Law by two witnesses. vs. 25-38

1. The testimony of Simeon. vs. 25-35

- a. Simeon is called a just man, righteous towards men and devout, righteous towards God, waiting for the consolation of Israel, the hope of the Messiah and the Holy Spirit upon him. vs. 25
- b. Simeon was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Lord's Messiah. vs. 26
- c. Simeon came into the temple by the Spirit and when the babe Jesus was handed to him, he took Him and blessed God, confessing that he was seeing the promised Messiah and could depart in peace. vs. 27-30
- d. Simeon then declared that God had prepared a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel. vs. 31-32
- e. Simeon addressed himself to Joseph and Mary. vs. 33-35
  - 1) The response of Joseph and Mary was that of marveling at the things spoken. vs. 33

- 2) The blessing was pronounced to Joseph and Mary. vs. 34a
- 3) The confirmation of God's revelation to Mary was declared to Mary. vs. 34b-35
  - a) The child was destined for the fall, the stumbling and rising, the salvation of many in Israel. vs. 34b-c
  - b) The Child was destined for a sign which would be spoken against. vs. 34d
  - c) A sword would pierce through the soul of Mary, that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed. vs. 35
    - \* Again she was reminded of the living sacrifice she had been called to be throughout her life, culminating at the cross!
- 2. The testimony of Anna vs. 36-39
  - a. Anna was a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher; a widow seven years after being married. vs. 36
  - b. Anna was 84 years old did not depart from the temple but served God with fastings and prayer night and day. vs. 37
  - c. Anna came in at the instant Simeon was prophesying to Mary and confirmed the prophecy to all who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. vs. 38

\* The Law required all things to be attested by two or three witnesses! Duet. 19:15

- d. Mary, Joseph and Jesus having performed all according to the Law returned to Galilee. vs. 39

### **Illustration**

We are to be living sacrifices to God, the only problem with a “living sacrifices” is that they keep crawling off the alter.

\* Someone is reported to have asked a concert violinist in New York’s Carnegie Hall how she became so skilled. She said that it was by “planned neglect.” She planned to neglect everything that was not related to her goal. (Ill. Bib. Prea:101)

### **Application**

1. As Mary submitted Jesus to the rite of circumcision, each of us should submit ourselves to the circumcision not made with hands in Spirit, of the heart, trusting God to do for us what we can not do for ourselves. Rom 2:29; Phil. 3:3
2. As Mary obeyed the law, so we obey the word of God in order to be His instruments of honor and for His glory that He might guide us from day to day, as part of His plan. Rom. 12:1-2
3. As Mary saw God’s confirmation, so will we as we walk with God in our call, for He is faithful to always confirm His word and work in us and through us by His Spirit and His people. 1Thess. 5:21; 1Jn 4:1

### ***Mary and the dedication Jesus, reveals divine consecration!***

### **III. Mary and the visitation of the Magi. Matt. 2:1-22**

\* Matthew alone records this account!

- A. The wise men came to Jerusalem asking the whereabouts of the king of the Jews. vs. 1-3
  1. They came after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod. vs. 1a
    - a. He is said to be king, a title he constantly sought after through Rome and obtained it but never recognized by the Jews.
    - b. He was Herod the Great, the son of Antipater, an Idumean, not a Jew and reigned 37 years in Judea; Jesus was born in the last year of his reign.
  2. They came from the east. vs. 1b
    - a. A journey of probably 700-1,000 miles and some believed they were from Media and Persia.
    - b. The phrase wise men “magos”, some have traced the root to an Iranian word meaning great and at times identified with soothsaying, divination and astrology.
  3. They had seen His star and being guided they came to worship Him. vs. 2
    - a. Not any star.
    - b. Nothing but His star, the king of the Jews.

\* Balaam had prophesied about a star to arise as well as Daniel and the Minor preheats. Num. 24:17

4. They caused Herod to be trouble and all Jerusalem with him. vs. 3
  - a. The word troubled means to be agitated or perplexed.
  - b. He had no room for a rival to eclipse him, or be sought after, let alone remove him from his throne, being self-centered.
  - c. He, Herod the Great was a complete madman paranoid of loosing his throne so he killed many of his own wives and children.
    - \* He imprisoned a group of individuals to be executed the minute he died to insure that there would be someone grieving at his death that is how hatred he was!

**B.** Herod went to the religious leaders and asked the whereabouts of the Messiah. vs. 4-6

1. The Priest and scribe were the lawyers to interpret and scribes to record the scriptures, often scholars. vs. 4
  - a. They had biblical knowledge and information.
  - b. They were more concerned with knowing than doing!

- c. They so often are under the influence and power of Herod type people who are in political power.
  - d. They are very careful to be politically correct in what they say.
  - e. They have a very secure position and are looked up to as the reputable authorities, having an appearance of spirituality.
2. The Priest and scribe possessed accurate biblical truth and told Herod Bethlehem of Judea according to the prophets. vs. 5
  - \* Bethlehem means house of bread located about 5-6 miles south of Jerusalem.
  - a. They spoke with theological language.
  - b. They expressed their experiences with God but often are contrary to the Scriptures.
  - c. They boast in their academic accomplishments to affirm their spiritual qualifications.
  - d. They do not live with the people.
  - e. They desire recognition by the people.
3. The Priest and scribe spoke about the Scriptures without real concern for the Person of Scripture. vs. 6
  - a. The text is from Micah. Mic. 5:2
  - b. The revelation was two-fold.
    - 1) The privilege of Bethlehem.
    - 2) The person was to be a Ruler.
  - c. The position was to shepherd, the people of God, the Jews.

- \* Herod wanted to make sure he remained on throne.
  - d. They had no anticipation of the Messiah's coming.
  - e. They no excitement of life through the Messiah.
  - f. They had no desire to be ruled and guide by the Messiah.
- C. Herod called for the wise men to seek the Messiah for him. vs. 7-12
1. He secretly called the wise men. vs. 7a-b
  2. He determined meaning to learn carefully from them the time of the stars appearance. vs. 7c
    - \* The word determined means to learn carefully. vs. 13-18
  3. He covered up his motive and true intent to kill the Messiah. vs. 8
    - a. He was using godly men to accomplish his evil desire to locate the Messaiah by his false pretense and deceptive words.
    - b. He was selling himself to them by his fraudulent hypocritical words saying he wanted to worship the Messiah rather than to destroy Him. vs. 13-14, 16-18
  4. They were led by the star a sit stood over the location of the Messiah. vs. 9e
    - a. The star was not some constellation, Saturn, Jupiter or Halley's comet.

- b. The star was a divine light that stood over where the child was.
5. They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy at finding the Messiah. vs. 10
  - \* They sought a person not a system of philosophy.
6. They entered the house, true to their intent and worshipped, prostrating themselves before the Christ child. vs. 11a-c
  - a. The place was a house not a cave or outdoor enclosure nor was the Christ a new-born in a manger when they arrived.
  - b. The mother of Jesus was present, Mary, I am sure the Magi were amazed at God's way but they did not worship her.
  - c. The husband of Mary is not mentioned, but when Jesus was twelve he is present.
7. They gave of the best they had. vs. 11d-g
  - a. They came with treasures. vs. 11d
  - b. They presented gifts to Him. vs. 11e.
    - 1) They gave Him gold, which is symbolic of deity and His office of King.
    - 2) They gave Him frankincense symbolic of His priestly and sacrificial service, imported from Arabia near Saba and Shelor it was both rare and costly.

- 3) They gave Him myrrh symbolic of His office of prophet who was to die, which was used for embalming.  
\* Nicodemus. Jn. 19:39, Deut. 18:15
8. They were divinely warned in a dream to not return to Herod and were obedient to their Messiah once they found Him.  
vs. 12a-b
- a. Revealing the faithfulness of God.
  - b. Revealing the loyalty of the wise men.
9. They departed to their own country another way.
- a. Revealing their dependency on God alone.
  - b. Revealing their trust in God's way.
- D. Mary and the child were protected by God. vs. 13-18**
1. God warns Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt by the angel of the Lord. vs. 13
- a. He was to take Mary and Jesus.
  - b. He was to stay there till God brought word to him.
  - c. He was to know that Herod sought the young child's life to destroy Him.  
\* Like Abimilech, Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh, Solomon, Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar and Pilate's wife.
2. Joseph's obedience was prompt. vs. 14  
\* Egypt about 200 miles where a large settlement of Jews there.

3. God was fulfilling the Old Testament Scriptures. vs. 15
4. Herod seeing he had been deceived by the wise men, he sought to slay all the infants and it's districts. vs. 16  
\* Two passages are inferred. Num. 24:8, Hos. 11:1
- a. Herod was a proud and insecure man about his person and throne.  
\* He says himself as one mocked or trifled with that is the meaning of the word "deceived."
  - b. Herod in his exceedingly angry state decreed that all the infants from two years old and under to put to death.
  - c. Herod decided the time from his inquiry of the wise men travel time.
5. Herod was also fulfilling Old Testament prophecies. vs. 17-18
- a. The chapter speaks of the downfall of the nation of Israel going captive to Babylon and finally delivery.  
Jer. 31:15
  - b. They would go by way of Rachel's tomb, as captives and she would mourn them from her burial.  
Gen. 35:19
  - c. Ramah is about five to six miles north of Jerusalem.
6. God called Joseph to return to Israel by the angel of the Lord. Matt. 2:19-21

- \* Matt.1:20, 2:12, 13, 19, 22
- a. The angel told Joseph that Herod was dead and he was to return with the child and his mother. vs. 19-20
  - b. The return was prompted by another warning and was guided to Galilee. vs. 21-22
    - 1) The son of Herod was ruling over Judea and he became afraid.
    - 2) Archelaus was like his father, brutal. He killed 3,000 on his ascension to the throne.
  - c. The guidance once again fulfilled Old Testament Scripture. vs. 23
    - 1) Jesus came to dwell at Nazareth, eighty miles north of Jerusalem.
    - 2) Jesus was to be called a Nazarene.
    - 3) There is no specific prophet given and believed to be summation of many references, “prophets,” also Minor Prophets.
    - 4) The root is “branch” or “shoot.” Is 11:1, Jer. 33:15  
\* This is the 4th prophecy fulfilled.

### Illustration

Billy Graham in book “Angels, Angels” tells of these missionaries who were surrounded by a fierce African tribe on night and knowing they were going to be killed, they began to pray fervently. As time transpired they looked out and all were gone. Years

later they chief of the same tribe were converted and the missionary asked him why they did to attach that night? He said that there were giants around the house with swords drawn.

1. Oh, I wonder how often we are protected by God, in ways that are so hidden from us!
2. Shakespeare said, “I commend my soul into the hands of God my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing, through the merits of Jesus Christ my Savior, to be made partaker of life everlasting.” #663

### Application

1. We have to be so careful that we do to loose heart due to the difficulties that God allows and brings to us to alien us with His will and purposes.  
\* “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but things which *are* not seen are eternal.” 2Cor. 4:16-18
2. We have to know God, so that when He speaks to us, we can obey and be guided by Him.  
\* “The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.” Ps. 27:23  
How we have to be so careful to not fall into the deceptive plans of others and be part of destroying God’s work.

\* “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11

God is sufficient to care for the saint and His church adequately, we need not fear.

\* Jesus said Peter, “And on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Matt. 16:18

***Mary and the visitation of the Magi reveals to us divine protection!***

### **Conclusion**

We want three more movements regarding Mary in relation to the incarnation.

- I.** Mary and the proclamation of Caesar, divine transportation!
- II.** Mary and the dedication of Jesus, divine consecration!
- III.** Mary and the visitation of Magi, divine protection!