

In the Fullness of Time - The Story of Advent

11/25/18 – Week 4: Miraculous Conceptions & God's Deliverance

Week	Topic	Teacher
11/4	Introduction; Incarnation; Long-awaited Messiah	Derek
11/11	Matthew: The Messiah, Born of a Virgin	Craig
11/18	Matthew: Kings, Kingdoms, Exile: Prophecies Fulfilled	Jon
11/25	Luke: Miraculous Conceptions & God at Work in Deliverance	Derek
12/2	Luke: Two Births & Humble King Born in a Manger	Craig
12/9	Luke: Witnesses, Present and to Come	Jon
12/16	John: The Word Was God, Announced, & Became Flesh	Jon
12/23	<i>No class</i>	
12/30	John: A Heavenly Birth Announcement	Craig

Q: What did we learn from the three weeks on Matthew?

Luke: Different Author, Different Focus, Different Approach
The beginning of his Gospel, as compared to Matthew's

Where would Luke have gotten his infancy narrative?

Q: What did Jon teach us last week about the connections to OT prophecies? How was Matthew a bridge between the OT and NT periods? How is Luke different?

Miraculous Conceptions

Q: What are the parallels between the conception stories of John the Baptist and Jesus?

How does Zechariah respond?

Who was John the Baptist and why does Luke focus on him?

“In the spirit and power of Elijah”

How does Mary respond?

Elizabeth’s confirmation of the Sign

- How did (pre-natal) John react? Why?
- What does Elizabeth pronounce?

Mary’s Magnificat

- Likely context as a hymn of _____ (much like the Psalms)
- Content-wise, it serves to transfer any praise from Mary to God
- Most similar parallel: the song of _____, after the dedication of _____ . (1 Sam: 2:1-10)

Application: How will you respond to God’s call in your life? Do we respond as Zechariah? As Joseph? As Mary?

- What God makes clear concerning his will for your character (e.g. 1 Thess 5:16-18)
- What God makes clear concerning the big picture of what all Christians should do. (e.g. Matthew 28:19-20)
- “let it be to me according to your word”. (Mary’s response - Luke 1:38)

Luke 1 (ESV)

5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. **7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, **9** according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10** And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. **11** And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. **13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. **14** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15** for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **16** And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, **17** and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

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26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

37 For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, **40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

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The Birth of John the Baptist

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. **58** And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. **59** And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, **60** but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." **61** And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." **62** And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. **63** And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. **64** And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. **65** And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, **66** and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zechariah's Prophecy: Benedictus

LUKE 1

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56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

LUKE 2

The Birth of Jesus Christ

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

MATTHEW 1

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.