

THE GREATNESS OF JESUS

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, [27] to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. [28] Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" [29] Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. [30] "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! [31] You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus. [32] **He will be very great** and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. [33] And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!" [34] Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." [35] The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God. [36] What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. [37] For nothing is impossible with God." [38] Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. (Luke 1:26-38)

- **At Christmas we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ in our world, as He was born in a stable in a little town called Bethlehem about 2025 years ago.**
- **Accolades have been given to many children over the years, but Jesus is the only unborn child predicted to be "great" by an Angel from Heaven.**
- ***Why would the Angel declare Jesus to be great as He came into our world?***

Jesus Is Great Because:

HE IS THE SON OF GOD

- The Angel to Mary - *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God."* (Luke 1:35)
- **Being a human makes us God's creation but doesn't make us God's child.**

- *"To all who did accept Him and believe in Him, He (Father God) gave the right to become children of God."* (John 1:12)
- **People who accept Jesus as their Savior become God's children, but He is THE Son of God.**
- *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Jesus Is Great Because:

HE IS THE <u>SAVIOR</u> OF THE WORLD

- The Angel to Joseph – *"You are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21)
- **People often need to be "saved" from bad relationships, bad habits, danger, etc. – but our greatest need is God's "salvation."**
- **Our sins separate us from God in this life, and promise to keep us separated from God in the next life.**
- *"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)
- **When Jesus comes into our lives, He forgives our sins and begins to free us from the bondage and baggage of our sins.**
- *"God is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins."* (Ephesians 1:7)
- **When Jesus becomes our Savior, He also blesses us with abundant life on earth and eternal life in heaven.**
- Jesus – *"I came to give life – life in all its fullness."* (John 10:10)

Jesus Is Great Because:

HE IS THE <u>SOLUTION</u> TO OUR PROBLEMS

- ***What are the great problems of my life?***
- **Jesus is able to *Heal Broken Hearts*.**
    - Jesus – *"The Spirit of the Lord . . . has anointed Me to heal broken hearts."* (Luke 4:18)
- **Jesus is able to *Transform Broken Lives*.**
    - Jesus – *"If the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36)
- **Jesus is able to *Restore Broken Families.***
    - Jesus to the man from Gadara – *"Go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been."* (Mark 5:19)
- **Jesus is able to *Change Broken Circumstances*.**
    - The Angel – *"Nothing is impossible with God."* (Luke 1:37)
- **Whatever our SITUATION is today, Jesus is the SOLUTION to meeting the great needs of our lives.**