

Luke 1:26-45 (NIV)

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. ³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

42-01-06-Two Miraculous Conceptions

revelation, faith, Incarnation, new birth, prophesy, Messiah
Luke 1:26-45

We were each born on purpose to be reborn for an even higher purpose.

INTRODUCTION: (text as the Scripture Reading)

–*Humanity* was a divine concept, *conceived in the heart of the Trinity* and *materialized* by God's breath blown on some planetary dust from star debris: this is the origin of the 1st Adam. Similarly, *The Incarnation of God's Son*, was a divine idea, *conceptualized in the mind of Triune Deity* and physically conceived in a virgin's womb by the *miraculous breath of the Holy Spirit*: this is the origin of the 2nd Adam.

–A virgin *Eve* led the 1st Adam to fall, but the virgin *Mary* became the *Theotokos* [God-bearer] for Jesus, the 2nd Adam. In Christ, God brought *salvation* to Adam's fallen race by creating a new humanity. *Salvation isn't the salvaging of the old creation but the birth of a new creation*. For believers, this means being "born again." We're born first into the race of the old Adam, but the Holy Spirit gives us *new birth from on high* by bringing the new Adam into our hearts. **HOM.idea.**

–Our **text** not only tells about the miraculous conception of Christ but mentions that of His forerunner, John the Baptist. From both miracles, we learn much about *faith* and *the nature of salvation*. Let's start with...

I. "The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness" (John)

- A. Luke's Gospel starts with the angel Gabriel's message for an old, barren couple– Luke 1:12-13, 15b-17. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous— to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
- B. With a barren wife, too old for childbearing, Zechariah doubted this promise of a pregnancy, but as a priest, he knew the two OT prophecies Gabriel mentioned about this promised son:
1. He would move "in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous"– Mal 4:5-6. "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and

dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.” (The last 2 verses of the OT!)

2. He would also “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (This refers to a prophecy in Isa 40:3, quoted about John in Mat 3:3 (NIV), This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

TRANS: Newborns are *special*. God blesses them each with *unique capacities* to serve Him and others. God gave John a head start– Luke 1:15b, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Merely by being a human, he was “a voice,” but he became a message when the Holy Spirit made him “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord.’” God’s specific purposes for John and for us are *unique*, but the power to fulfill them is the same: the indwelling Holy Spirit. **We were each born on purpose to be reborn for an even higher purpose.** Just as...

II. “The Mother of My Lord” (Elizabeth’s words used to greet Mary)

- A. What happened *in Mary* that can’t be duplicated: the biologically correct miracle of the Incarnation. (*What’s does that mean?*)
 1. In her womb, an ovum, carrying DNA from Adam, Abraham and King David, was fertilized with a human sperm not from the old race of Adam, but directly from God’s Breath, the Holy Spirit.
 2. It was a true conception (not the *implanting* of a pre-formed *Jesus-zygote*); the angel told Joseph in Mat 1:20b-21, “do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is **conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit**. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
- B. Yet Mary’s *miraculous conception* is similar to our new birth.
 1. At *Christ’s conception inside her*, Mary became a Theotokos, a God-bearer– v.35, *The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”* (In John 14:17, Jesus spoke of “the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”)
 2. The Holy Spirit united the *2nd Adam’s DNA* with that of the *1st Adam*, so Jesus could take our old nature to the Cross– Rom 6:6. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

TRANS: All births are purposeful for this *temporary* world. But *new birth* has a higher purpose in God’s *eternal* kingdom. Mary was born with a call to bring her own Savior into the world. She, too, needed *new birth*. On the Day of Pentecost, she was one of the 120 disciples filled with the Holy Spirit. *Did she need that? Yes*, because she was just like us, **born on purpose to be reborn for an even higher purpose**. We also learn much about *faith* and *salvation* from what happened when...

III. Mary “Entered Zechariah’s Home and Greeted Elizabeth”

- A. Gabriel had said in v.28, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” (God’s *favor* and *presence* weren’t with Mary because of *good works*, but because of *God’s grace*, just as it is with us.)
 1. Mary’s faith-response to God caused Elizabeth to say in v.42, “Blessed are you among women.” (*Faith is also why we get blessed!*)
 2. Elizabeth confirmed this by her prophetic words at the close of the passage, when she told Mary in v.45, “Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”
- B. Elizabeth’s response to Mary is a picture of Christian fellowship:
 1. In her womb was the last OT prophet who would announce the Messiah’s arrival. That *baby prophet, at 27-weeks gestation, was already doing his job*– v.41-44, *When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.”*
 2. The honor, respect and love we show other Christians are really being shown both to them and to the Christ Who indwells them– 1 Cor 6:17, But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

CONCLUSION:

–We weren’t born into this world to live in separation but to live *in union* with God and other believers. Jesus provided this possibility not just by His *Incarnation*, His Cross and Resurrection, but by indwelling us through the Holy Spirit. **We were each born on purpose to be reborn for an even higher purpose**. Jesus wants *to live His life in us*, but He won’t force salvation upon us. We must receive our new birth in Him with the disposition of faith we see in Mary– v.38, “I am the Lord’s servant,” *Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.”*