

Our theme for today: Incredible creation!

Today we see that the angel has a message for Mary. It's a wonderful message and it's found in Luke 1:30-33. I like the beginning of the message. We find that the angel recognizes Mary's fear. That says a lot about the angel, right? That the angel knows our emotions! Also, the angel calls her by her name, 'Mary.' The angel knows her. In five words, the Lord's messenger brings comfort and reassurance. That level of comfort, though, is completely superseded when she next hears what the angel has to say.

Scripture

³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:30-33

Thought provokers

- As you look over the above Scriptures, can you count up the number of blessings that Mary will receive?
 - Here's just one to give you an idea: Mary is blessed to have a Son that will receive David's throne from the Lord God!

Reflections

Mary receives the startling content of the task ahead of her. She will bear a child; but no ordinary child. The child will be conceived in a way never before; she will conceive in her womb – but not by man! God will supernaturally fertilize a human female egg that would not have been fertilized otherwise. The child will be a son. This child will be called Jesus. This miraculous event will occur by the Spirit (Luke 1:35). It won't be creation begetting creation, it will be Creator bringing forth a created One. This is the most incredible creation!

If you know your Bibles well, you might recall that in the beginning,

"the earth was without form and was a desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness." Genesis 1:2-4

It's interesting isn't it? In the beginning there was no earth – just formlessness and a desolate emptiness. Yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God brought forth substance; He brought forth matter; He brought forth for us a place to dwell; and, God made this “good”. It was good wasn't it? God can turn nothing into something! He can bring the physical from the spiritual. God can cross the divide between heaven and earth. Incredible creation!

But, while God separated light from dark, man chose to enter into the darkness. The consequences were dire! We lost our way.

In His divine plan, though, God brought the light again, but this time a different light. This light was Jesus, the light of the world. In His divine plan, again by the power of the Spirit, God turned nothing into something, He brought forth a man, He crossed the divide between heaven and earth – though this time it was not a universe to house the creation, it was a womb to carry a child. Incredible creation!

Prayer and Song

Take time to pray and sing praises to Him. Here is one written by Francis of Assisi from 1225.

All creatures of our God and King

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!*

*Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou fire so masterful and bright,

*that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*And all ye men of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!*

*Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!*

*Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*