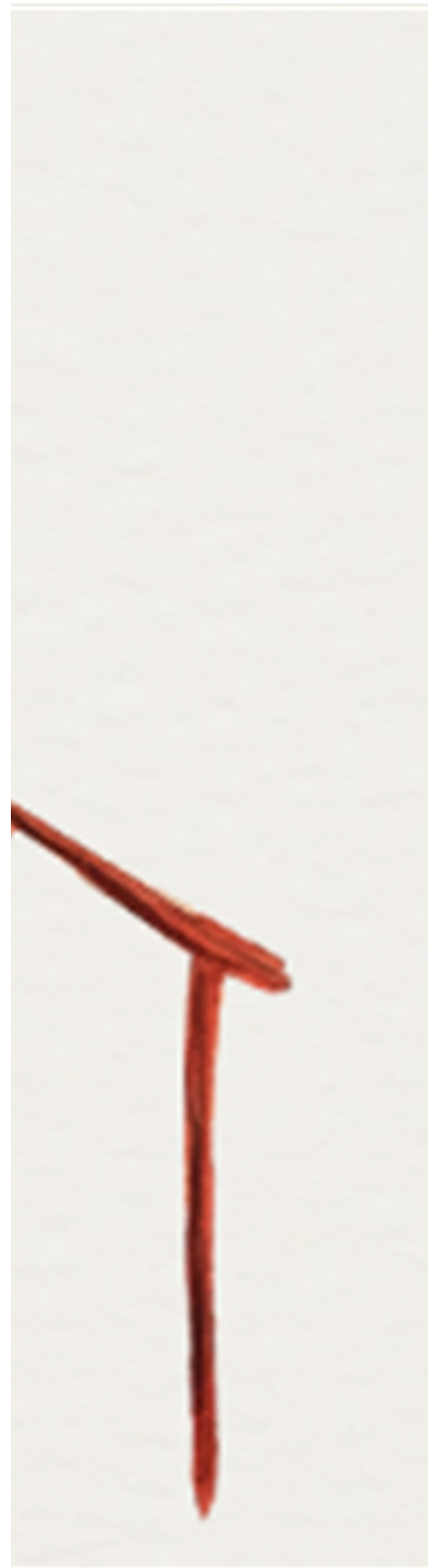




*Grace So
Amazing
at
Christmas*

Luke 1:24-28



Luke 1:24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,
25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among men.

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.



This passage begins with John the Baptist's mother regarding her pregnancy after many years of barrenness. Her son, John the Baptist, was the prophesied forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ. During this Christmas season, let's focus on what the Bible says is important to know.

As we have already seen, grace appeared in Bethlehem when Jesus was born:

Jn. 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

This morning, we will observe the backstory of God's grace so amazing at Christmas.



I. THE ACTIVATION OF GRACE SO AMAZING

A. The Plans were Ancient, Eph. 3:9

Eph. 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, **which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed and her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.



❖ From before the foundation of the world, the Lord Jesus was the focus for mankind's salvation.

Rev. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life **of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Jn. 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: **for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.**



B. The Plans were Announced, Isa. 7:14

Isa. 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; **Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Isa. 9:6 For **unto us a child is born**, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.



❖ The birthplace of the Lord Jesus was prophesied in Mal. 5:2:

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* **out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is to be ruler in Israel***; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

C. The Prophets were Accurate, Mark 1:1-3



Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

2 **As it is written in the prophets**, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

❖ If your Bible has “Isaiah” instead of prophets, it lies. The first part of what is written in Mark 1:2, is found in the Book of Malachi:



Mal. 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

❖ The last part of Mark 1:2, is found in the Book of Isaiah:

Isa. 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.



❖ The two quotes are from two prophets, not just Isaiah – “As it is written in the prophets...”

❖ God’s timing is always perfect, activating the promise “when the fulness of time was come.”
(Gal. 4:4)

Gal. 4:4 But **when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son**, made of a woman, made under the law,



II. THE ANNUNCIATION OF GRACE SO AMAZING, Luke 1:26-28

A. The Details

- ❖ The timing – “sixth month”
- ❖ The messenger – “Gabriel”
- ❖ The commissioner – “was sent from God”



- ❖ The destination – “unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth”
- ❖ The audience – “To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph... and the virgin's name *was* Mary.”
- ❖ The lineage – “of the house of David”

B. The Description, 1:28

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.



- ❖ Mary was a virgin, espoused to Joseph, and both were of the house of David.
- ❖ Gabriel greeted her with a compliment regarding her character, that she was “highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee.”
- ❖ To be the mother of the Messiah, Gabriel said, “blessed *art* thou among women.”



III. THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRACE SO AMAZING

A. Souls Perplexed, 1:29

Luke 1:29 And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

❖ Though incidents may occur within the center of God's will, believers may still become troubled and perplexed in thoughts.

❖ Being a human, seeking clarity, is NOT a sin.



B. Special Promises, 1:30-33

Luke 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.



❖ To reassure and encourage Mary, Gabriel gave her extraordinary promises:

✦ The promise of a male child, along with His name – v. 31.

✦ The promise that the child is the Messiah – v.32.

✦ The promise of His eternal kingdom, v. 33.



C. Submissive Priorities, 1:38

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

- ❖ Mary's teenage life was interrupted with a monumental, life-changing event.
- ❖ Though fearful and lacking understanding of all of the ramifications for her of Gabriel's message, Mary humbly submitted to God's will for her life.



❖ As soon as Mary acknowledged obedience, Gabriel left her to work out the details. He did not advise her on how to let Joseph know the situation.



Summary

- ❖ Elizabeth and Mary had unique interruptions in their lives. As an older woman, barren Elizabeth bore John the Baptist.
- ❖ As a virginal teenager, Mary encountered an angel who gave her an extraordinary message that would radically change her life.
- ❖ Mary responded with gracious humility and obedience, considering herself as a “handmaid of the Lord.”



Conclusion

❖ Believers should always live in humble obedience to honor the Lord.

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, **We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**



Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

