

Third Sunday in Advent, December 14, 2014 at 8:00 & 10:45

God With Us

A Chronology of the Four Gospels Regarding Our Savior's Birth!

Part 4:

Luke 1:28-38 – The Birth of Jesus Is Told *in Advance* through an Angel!



Luke 3:23-38 – Connecting the Dots from Jesus to Adam to God!

Wednesdays in Advent: 11 AM Service, Noon Meal; 6 PM Meal, 7 PM Service

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is part 4 of “**God With Us**”! In part 3 we moved into the lower timeline with →Gabriel appearing to Zechariah and →Elizabeth conceiving John. Today an angel tells Mary about the child she will conceive – “the Son of the Most High,” *then* we will trace Jesus’ genealogy through Mary to Adam to God! Notice the three numbers **4**’s on our timeline.

1. **The Birth of Jesus Is Told *in Advance* through an Angel:**

a. **NIV Luke 1:28** The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored [lit. *having been favored*]! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ **Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.** ³⁰ **But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. // Why was Mary favored [chosen]?”**

i. **Because** she was sinless: This past Monday Pope Francis prayed: “**Oh Mary... today the people of God in celebration venerates [worships] you, the immaculate, preserved from the contagion [contagious disease] of sin from the beginning...**”¹ That does make some sense – *since Mary did bear the Christ*, yet that statement disagrees with many passages of Holy Scripture: 1 Tim. 2:5; Rev. 22:8-9; Rom. 3:10, 23; 5:12 (ἀνθρώπους); Heb. 4:15.

- ii. **Because God chose her:** Mary was a very faithful OT Christian, who longed for the coming Messiah. She even said: “...my spirit rejoices in God **my Savior...**” (Luke 1:47 NIV)
- b. ³¹ **You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus** [Joseph was told the same, Mt. 1:21]. ³² **He 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,** ³³ **and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.** // Mary’s first Son was *the promised future descendant of Eve* who destroyed the works of devil – *thus sin and death* (Gen. 3:15; 1 John 3:7-8).
- c. ³⁴ **“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”** [She was not doubting – she knew God could do anything; she was just wondering how.] 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.** [So we confess in the Apostles’ Creed that Jesus “*was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...*”] ³⁶ **Even 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.** ³⁷ **For 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.** // The angel gave Mary some real-life encouragement: Your old and barren relative is six months pregnant (see **6 & 8**). Also, notice Mary’s humble response: “**I am the Lord’s servant... May it be to me as you have said.**” Mary could have reasoned like this: God ♦made me, ♦loves me, ♦provides for me, and ♦saved me; therefore, *I want to do whatever His will is for my life!* May we be more like Mary!

¹ <http://christiannews.net/2014/12/10/pope-claims-mary-was-conceived-without-original-sin-during-feast-of-immaculate-conception/>

2. **Connecting the Dots from Jesus to Adam to God:** This is an overview of Luke's genealogy from the Concordia Self-Study Bible: "...Matthew follows the line of Joseph (Jesus' legal father), while Luke emphasizes that of Mary (Jesus' blood relative)." (1552) Also, Matthew's genealogy goes from Abraham to Jesus, while Luke's genealogy goes **backwards** from Jesus to God.
- a. Part 1 – From Jesus, backwards, to David's Son Nathan: This section covers about 1,000 years. ^{NIV} **Luke 3:23** **Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, ²⁵ the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, ²⁷ the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, ³⁰ the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan...** // Nathan was an older brother of Solomon (2 Sa 5:13-14); both were children of David and Bathsheba. So both Joseph and Mary can be traced back to David, but ♦the line of *Joseph is through Solomon* while ♦the line of *Mary is through Nathan*.
- b. Part 2 – From David, backwards, to Abraham: This section covers about 1,000 years. **...the son of David, ³² the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, ³³ the son of**

Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, ³⁴ the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham... // Those are the same 14 people listed in Joseph's genealogy from Abraham to David (Matt. 1:2-6, pt. 2).

- c. Part 3 – From Terah, backwards, to God: This section covers about 2,000 years. **...the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, ³⁵ the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, ³⁶ the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah** [in his time there was great wickedness, so believing Noah and his family were saved in the ark while the world perished in unbelief; then the line of our Savior continued through Noah's son Shem], **the son of Lamech, ³⁷ the son of Methuselah** [969 years, Gen. 5:27], **the son of Enoch** [He "walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." (Gen 5:24 NIV)], **the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, ³⁸ the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.** // Keep in mind we have been moving backwards, so we could read: Enosh the son of Seth, Seth the son of Adam, and Adam the son of God. Jesus connects *all the way back* to the first person ever created, so *Jesus is the Savior of all people* – regardless of color, language, location, culture, etc.! Regarding Jesus: "...there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NAS)

Conclusion: **Sadly** we have all sinned, but **gladly** we are saved *by grace through faith in Jesus!* Join us this Wednesday at 11 AM or 7 PM as Mary ♦visits Elizabeth and ♦magnifies the Lord! **Amen!**