

Visions and Revelations:
Message 4 - The One Who Bore the Prince of Life

After hearing and considering the word that was spoken, a group of brothers and sisters were inspired by some of the verses that were shared. We felt that it was helpful to reconsider these verses again to dig deeper into the burden of the message and to discover how rich it could be to us. We compiled these verses into six sections, one for each day of the week until the next message, in hopes that many other saints could spend a bit of time every day to reconsider the burden of our brother in a new light. If anyone considers some of these verses or questions and feels enriched by them, we ask you to please leave a comment on the Church in Cleveland site under the message to share your thoughts! Thanks! Grace and peace be to all the saints!

Note: These six sections are not comprehensive of the content of the message! This is just designed to be a help to get into a portion throughout the days.

DAY 1

Luke 1:26-27

*26 Now in the sixth month the **angel Gabriel was sent by God** to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was **Mary**.*

The name “Mary” (“Maryam” in Aramaic) in the New Testament correlates with the name “Miriam” in the Old Testament. Miriam, the sister of Moses, means “rebellious one” as portrayed in the Old Testament. This shows us that we as the human race are a rebellious people. This is especially evident in the Old Testament, when the children of Israel were wandering around the wilderness. There were countless times when they rebelled against God, even after He proves Himself repeatedly. Although we are rebellious by nature, by God’s grace He presents Himself to us, just like how God presented himself to Mary. This picture of God coming to Mary exemplifies how desperate God is to be with man, to obtain a people for Himself.

DAY 2

Luke 1:28

And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

Favored one! When the Angel came to Mary he told her to rejoice! Highly favored one. Oh what surprise, what a shock this must have been to Mary. Mary may have considered herself to be just a common Israelite. She may have thought, I do not have any great accomplishments or anything to be very proud of, yet I am the favored one?

Brothers and sisters, have we ever thought “I am just a brother or just a sister? I have a job like many people, I am not that different or special.” However, I think the Lord would look at us and say, rejoice, highly favored one! Do we not have our Lord today as Immanuel (God with us)? Doesn’t that make you joyful? The Greek word for joyful is *chairō*, joy that is full of grace (*charis*). We can have joy because through the grace of God, Christ can be born in us. Today or tomorrow, Christ is “God is with us.” Brothers and sisters, I encourage you to take a moment today to praise and thank God! Mary had the unique favor, blessing, privilege of being the Mother of Jesus Christ but today we also have the opportunity to experience God’s grace, all sufficient supply, and all the unsearchable riches of Christ in our spirit!

DAY 3

Luke 1:31-32a

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest...

Colossians 1:16b-18

All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

“He will be great.” What a blessing it is to truly see this, and it is a lesson that we will be learning throughout our entire lives. He is in command, He holds everything in His hand, and He is over all things.

To apprehend the greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ demands humility, trust, a yielding within, and light from God Himself. On the grand scale, He is greater than you, greater than me, greater than anything happening on this earth today. “*All things were created through Him and for Him.*” On a more personal scale, He is still great--greater than what is spoken about in the news, greater than financial worries, greater than family situations, greater than frustrations in sharing the gospel, greater than our emotions and our logic and our stubbornness, greater than uncertainty of the future. “*...that in all things He may have the preeminence.*”

Try to spend some quiet, personal time with the Lord -- these verses above may help you. Ask for His light to shine. He both is and is seeking to be the Preeminent One over every aspect of your life and person. What is He “greater than” today?

DAY 4

Luke 1:31-33

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give

Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

In the days of Jesus, the throne of David was no longer existent. So how could Jesus be given the throne of His father David? David was a man following after God’s own heart, a man who was after God’s desire. The real throne of David is a throne that matches everything God wanted. Eventually, that becomes the throne of God Himself, thus it is an eternal throne.

Everything that happens to you under Jesus’ Lordship is related to His eternal throne. Since His throne is eternal, the things the Lord has ordained for you are related to eternal things. Consider your life today. If what happens to you does not bear the value of eternity, then in the end, it doesn’t mean that much. All the events and circumstances of your life are opportunities for you to gain something so high, something that has eternal value. In this current situation allowed by the Lord, are you gaining more of the eternal Christ day by day?

DAY 5

46 And Mary said,

...

*50 And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

*51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;*

Mary’s declaration has so much in it, we hope that you can dwell in more than just this small portion we’re talking about. Her declaration is decided by her environment, which was in Judaism. It shows her understanding that through Jesus, God is bringing his people out of the religious situation they are in. *His mercy is on those who fear him.* There are priests, elders, Pharisees, scribes, and even nobles in the Judaism of her day, but do they fear God? No, rather, their following of the law causes them to boast. They feel they don’t need any fear of God. “We’re Jews. God’s chosen people. Even more than that, I’m a priest, an elder, a scribe among the Jews.” The whole of Judaism is controlled by institutions. In contrast, Mary was not a woman of any high standing, yet she had true piety - not wanting to do anything apart from God. The Savior came not through one of the Jews of high class, not through one of *the proud* that God has scattered with his hand. Oh what a marvelous declaration! Are we those who simply fear the Lord? Who do not want to do anything apart from him? Or are we institutionalized and proud? Oh, may God give us humble hearts!

DAY 6

Luke 1:54-55

He has helped His servant Israel,

*In remembrance of His mercy,
As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”*

Galatians 6:15-16

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Because of what Jesus Christ accomplished in his incarnation, death, and resurrection, the true Israel is not based upon religious parameters but upon a new creation in Him. This is such a mercy! And now in the Body of Christ, there are billions of people that span all kinds of cultures, education levels, races, daily practices, and histories. Our inclusion is not based upon our own qualities or qualifications, but upon the seed, Jesus Christ. This was true in the moment of our initial salvation, it is true today, and it will be true forever. It is true right now. So thank You, Lord, that You have helped your servant Israel. May we spend our time not focusing on circumcision nor focusing on uncircumcision, but on walking in newness of life.