

Visions and Revelations

Message 4 Review: The One Who Bore the Prince of Life

The Meaning of the name Mary

What is the corresponding word in the Old Testament to Mary? Miriam. Who is Miriam? The rebellious one. A person named “rebellious one”, Mary, becomes the mother of the savior. God is so desperate to be with men, to accomplish his purpose. God is so desperate to be one with men, to be incarnated as a man, to become a flesh. God is so desperate yet realized everyone is rebellious. But I will do something with this rebellious race, rebellious people, rebellious human race. God come to men, like to be with men, even like to be part of men. Why? “Only so I can be your savior. Only so I can accomplish my desire. Only so I can become the exalted Lord. With what? Humanity. I am always the exalted one, but I like to bring humanity into divinity.”

Three Miracles: Creation, Birth of Jesus, and Resurrection of Jesus

The first miracle is creation. How complicated is it to have an earth. What is the distance with the Sun? What is the settlement according to the sun so that we should have four seasons? All kinds of vegetables, all kinds of things grow, all kinds of animals, eventually, men. Out of nothing, God created everything. God declared, “I will make men in our image after our likeness.” Yet, God is God and men is men. God and men are so distant. God is a holy God, God is a righteous God, men are sinful men, men are in fallen state. Enemy comes in and damages it, but God says, “I still like to fulfill my original desire, I want men to have my likeness outside, I want men to have my image inside. Not far away from me, but I can be in them, I can be one with them.”

The second great miracle is the birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus is not from men, not of men, but from Holy Spirit, from God himself as the power so that God can become man. He is man but has a divine nature. He is man but has divine attributes. He is man but he is God. He said “if you see me, you see the Father. My Father and I are one. I am just God.”

The third miracle is the resurrection of Jesus. The birth of Jesus brings God to men, the resurrection of Jesus brings men to God. With one person he said, “I am God, I am the Word, I am the

operating God, I became flesh, I like to be a man, I like to be with men, I like to live among men, and I like to be with them and fully partake of all their experiences. I will be put on the cross, die, bury, and will be in resurrection. Men will become God. I bring in the birth of Jesus, divinity comes into humanity. In resurrection, humanity is brought into divinity.”

We have a lot of miracles, but God will say, “these are not my leadings, what I want is, firstly, a creation, secondly, I want to be in God-created yet fallen man, and thirdly I will die, I will be buried, and I will be resurrected. In resurrection I will bring man to God.” I am a small person, a job is a big thing to me, no car accident is a big thing to me, special protection is a big thing to me, Lord has protected us, we were not sick! These are marvelous, but you cannot say this is exactly what God went through. God said, “there are only three great miracles: 1) I created 2) I became flesh 3) I go through death, but come into resurrection by being incarnated. I partake of man, came into man, and in resurrection I bring man and humanity to the heavenlies, to be on the throne, sitting at the right hand of God.” Not only God became man, now we can also become God.

Angel reveals to Mary

Mary saw the vision. It begins with a heart warming greetings “Oh favored one, may you be joyful!” (Luke 1:29) Joyful is different with happiness. Men focused on happiness, God’s desire is joyfulness. Happiness can be outward, the kids can be happy with a toy, a young person can be happy with a car, a mature person can be happy with a nice house, but they all would come and go. What is real is the inward joy. Joyfulness is from the Greek word “chario” which is full of grace (charis). Grace comes, you are joyful. When you are saved, you are joyful. When you touch the Lord, you are joyful. When you enjoy the Lord’s presence, you are joyful. When you partake of church meetings, you are joyful. By Lord’s mercy when listening to this message, I hope you can also say that you are joyful, because grace of God is coming to you. “May you be joyful” means may you really enjoy grace sufficiently. Grace upon grace will come to you.

Before Jesus was born, the angel told Mary “you will have a son, his name is Jesus, and he will be great.” (v.31-32) Greater over you, greater over me, greater over all the happenings. He shall have

preeminence over everything, above everything and all the things happening in the universe and on this globe! You can't imagine all the things happening every day and minute, but the lord will say I have my preeminence! I am on top of the whole thing, so I am great. What a blessing if you can say Jesus be great in my life! In my life be great! With me all my life, on everything! Lord, I want you to have the highest place! I want you to have preeminence over me, over the church, over the saints, over your testimony, over all the happenings! You will have preeminence in all things!

“He will be given the throne of David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob.” (v.32) David had a throne but his throne has gone. He will have a real throne of David, who is following God's heart and after God's desire. His throne is a throne that matches everything God wanted. It becomes the throne of God Himself. It is an eternal throne. Everything in the Lord's lordship that has happened to you is related to the throne, and it is related to eternity. If anything happens to you does not bear the value of eternity, then that happening doesn't mean that much.

Mary asks “how can this be?” (v.34) She didn't challenge but says, “I'm a virgin. I'm not married. How can this be?” The angel declared, “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, Spirit will come, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you.” (v.35) Overshadow means tabernacle. You can abide in this tabernacle. You are very restful. It is not something forceful that you feel very hard. It's just very natural, of the divine power, of the divine life, you conceive. Not only you conceive, you will have the joy of restfulness, comfortableness, because He tabernacles over you.

Mary's Praise

“His mercy is on those who fear Him.” (v.50) Mary said, “I am from Jewish religion, surrounding me are the priests, elders, laws, and all regulations derived from the Law. I will come out from this religious situation. I will come out of the present settlement. We are not priests, we are not elders, we are not Pharisees, we are not scribes, we are just a simple Israelite, but we know God and we fear God.” This is contrasted to those who want to follow the Law. You follow the Law because you boast. The one who says “I have the Law! I follow the Law!” will never feel that I need to fear God because “I'm doing fine.” There is a man who prayed “I'm not as that man, I offered ten percent, I

did this and that.” The Lord says, “This man has no fear to God.” He did everything that religion totally bribed him and satisfied him. But Mary said, “I don't have much, what can I offer? What can I do? But I know there is God, I fear God. I don't want to do anything apart from God.”

Judaism is a setting, in this setting there is a kind of proud. Who are we? We are Jew. We are God's chosen people. You're a Gentile! Gentile dogs! I am the elder among the Jews. I am a priest among the Jews. I am a Pharisee among the Jews. I am a scribe among the Jews. I am a higher class among the Jews. The Lord says, “I will show strength with My arm and scatter the proud.” (v.51) You think you are a priest? I scatter you. You think you are an elder, I scatter you. You think you know the Bible, I scatter you. You think you got something, you are a special class, I scatter you. I want to go to the poor.”

“He has exalted the lowly.” (v.52) Mary is very low, “I am just a lowly man, I can only admire others. Now, God exalted those who are low. I am no longer low. Savior will come out of me. Age will be changed. Grace will come. The lowly person like me will, by grace, enjoy the very God in another realm!” “He has filled the hungry with good things.” I have desire, I desired education, I desired good clothes, I desired comfortable living, I desired to be greeted on the street, I desired to have a certain status. All these are fake, I will feed you with good things, the spiritual things, the heavenly things, the things of God, the things from God, the things given to you by God. God give me all the blessings! Paul says, “He has blessed us with the heavenly blessings.” (Ephesians 1:3) All the blessings focused on Jesus Christ, it's from Jesus Christ, leads you to Jesus Christ. These are the good things. Those who feel “I am wealthy, I'm a Pharisee, I'm rich,” He has sent away empty. What you have is empty. You think you are a Pharisee? Empty. You think you're an elder? Empty. You think you're a priest? You can be godly? Be careful, unconsciously, you will be in emptiness.

Conclusion

We had a good fellowship. I hope brothers can come to these messages again and again, get into it. I hope everyone can say, “I'm not just listening to a message Sunday morning, I'm pursuing with the brothers in the whole week.” May the Lord be with us.