

Great Expectations

Heightened Expectations (Part 1)

Selected Scriptures

1. The Expectations Given to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

There were many amazing things surrounding Gabriel's visit to Mary announcing the birth of Jesus to her. She was told that she had found favor in God's eyes (vs.28, 30) and that her elderly and barren aunt would have a child (v.36). The angel gave to Mary several specific things to expect concerning this child.

A. The Child will be called the Son of the Most High (v.32)

This allows for the special incarnation of the second Person of the Trinity, but it does not require it (cf. Ps. 82:6; Luke 6:35). This child would have a unique relationship with with God.

B. The Child would sit on the throne of David (v.32)

Mary's comes from David's house through his son Nathan (Luke 3:31), and did not have the right to the throne. That right could only come through the line of Solomon (cf. Matt. 1:6, 16).

C. The Child Would Rule Forever (v.33)

This is one of the clearest indications which Mary would have connected to the Messiah. The promised Messiah would rule and reign forever (Isa. 9:6-7).

D. The Child Would be Uniquely Conceived (v.35)

All children are a gift from the Lord (Ps. 127:3) and several of the important figures in the Old Testament were born to mothers who had been barren prior to God opening of their wombs (Gen 20:18; 29:31; 30:22; 1 Sam 1:5). This child's conception would be absolutely and uniquely miraculous.

2. The Expectations Given to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

A. The Child had been uniquely conceived (v.20)

Similar to what Mary had been told, Joseph was to understand that this child would be the result of an absolutely unique and miraculous conception.

B. The Child's name would be Jesus (v.21)

Jesus is from the Greek word Ἰησοῦς (Iesous) the equivalent of the Hebrew יְהוֹשֻׁעַ (Yeshua) which means "Yahweh saves". In the Old Testament, individuals with this name have been translated as Joshua (Ex. 17:9).

C. The Child would save His people from their sins (v.21)

The Messiah was to be a savior who would deliver the nation and make it primary among the nations, but here the angel stresses Jesus' work related to sin.

3. The Expectations Announced by Elizabeth (Luke 1:41-45)

The child was Elizabeth's lord (v.43). There was not a full communication of the deity of Jesus here, but Elizabeth's greeting does allow for that reality which He will reveal later (cf. John 8:58).

4. The Expectations Given by Zacharias (Luke 1:67-79)

After having been mute for the entirety of his wife's pregnancy, Zacharias opened his mouth in praise to God, speaking about both his own newborn son as well as Jesus who would soon be born.

A. God has visited them (v.68)

In the Old Testament Scriptures, God's visitation can be in judgment or in grace. Here Zacharias makes it plain that this is a blessed and gracious visitation of the Lord.

B. God has accomplished redemption for His people (vs.68-69)

The work of redemption which is to be accomplished is spoken of as certainly as if it had already occurred (v.68).

C. God has raised up an individual to accomplish this salvation (v.69)

The looked for deliverer would be from the house of David. This would have certainly sparked Messianic hopes among his hearers.

D. God will display His mercy faithfulness (v.72)

The faithful mercy which will allow them to serve God without fear (v.74) is the Lord's fulfillment of His promise made to Abraham (Gen. 12:3).