

Introduction

1. “You are going to have a baby”
2. How would that news affect *you*?
3. If you’re in your 60’s or 70’s – that news might be pretty shocking
4. If you’re in your 40’s with your children all grown – that news might be pretty depressing
5. If you’re in your 30’s and had given up on conceiving – that news might be pretty exciting

I. But what about the Virgin Mary – what did this news mean to her?

- A. Mary is probably no older than 14 years old
 - i. Mary grew up in a pious Jewish home
 - ii. No Jew wanted to be shamed – especially being pregnant before marriage; yourself or your children
 - iii. But Gabriel comes to Mary, announcing to her that *she* is going to have a baby
- B. Mary was afraid of the angel’s visit, and then Gabriel delivers God’s message to her
 - i. “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
 - ii. Now THESE are words Mary has heard before
 - iii. You know how you watch a movie, and it begins in the present time, and then they go back in time to explain the story – like they did on “Titanic”
 - iv. Well, let’s go back in time to make sense of this news to Mary
 - v. This is not random news – this message has historical context

II. We find ourselves in about the year 980 BC – and there walking in Jerusalem is King David

- A. David has accomplished much!
 - i. He was a successful shepherd, tending the family sheep
 - ii. He has expanded the kingdom of Israel way to the north, and to the south, beyond the Jordan River, and to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea
 - iii. And as King over all Israel, David has built a grand castle in Jerusalem

- B. And now King David wants to build a Temple for God
 - i. Nathan is a prophet in Jerusalem - King David's pastor
 - ii. David tells Nathan it is his intent to build God a Temple, and Nathan tells him to go ahead with his plans
 - iii. But that night, God comes to Nathan to tell King David that David will not build a temple

- C. And that next day, Nathan tells David God's Word
 - i. God tells King David, that while David wants to build a house for God – it is God who will build a house for David
 - ii. God tells King David that from his family line – God will establish a great kingdom, and all his enemies will be cut off
 - iii. God tells King David, that not only will God provide a house for David, but a KINGDOM – one that will last forever

- D. Why is this so important? Why do we speak this story today – just a few days before Christmas? What does this have to do with Christmas?
 - i. These words of God to David through the mouth of Nathan are very important words in order for us to understand the Bible
 - ii. These words are what we call “God's Covenant to David”
 - iii. This Covenant stems all the way back to Adam and Eve – when God promised this fallen couple a Savior from sin and death
 - iv. This Covenant stems all the way back to Abraham – when God promised that the Messiah would come from Abraham's line
 - v. And now, God continues the promise to send a Savior – specifically through the line of King David, and the Messiah Himself would be one *like* King David

III. Why is this so important – that we would interrupt our Christmas festivities with such deep historical facts to bog us down?

- A. I wish I could find the right and weighty enough words and phrases to emphasize the horrible condition of this world, and how we ourselves are so fallen and so damned
 - i. This world is corrupt with sin, it is infested with hate, and it is destined for death
 - ii. So there I was – at B&N, and one college kid was telling another college kid what the professor said that day in class
 - iii. The professor told the students that basically every religion has their rendition of the flood story, and how every religion has their “own savior”
 - iv. They both agreed that that was pretty cool – but never once talked about the One True God, or the one REAL flood, or the ONE and ONLY Savior of the world
 - v. The world is LOST in sin and ignorance of God – led astray daily by the philosophies and thinkings of this world

- vi. This is no small matter – for apart from Jesus Christ, there is no salvation; for you, me, or all the world
- vii. Only through God’s plan – from Adam, to Abraham, to David, to Jesus Christ → only here is there rescue and salvation from everlasting hell

- B. And so – when God makes this promise to King David – we perk up our ears with eager expectation – and we wait
 - i. We wait for this Son of David to come
 - ii. We wait with longing for this Son of David to come and deliver us, to save us out of our own sins, our own misery, our own sadness and despair
 - iii. We wait with eager excitement for this Son of David to save us

IV. We fast-track back to Mary and Gabriel...

A. Gabriel says, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord will give to him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will no end”

- B. Mary has heard these words before – all through the Old Testament – as it had been taught to her
 - i. Mary has heard these words from the Book of II Samuel
 - ii. God had promised the seed of David – and now Mary will bear that seed and give birth to the Son of David, the Messiah
 - iii. This could not happen through Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba – this eternal kingdom could only come from God, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, also a descendant of King David (along with her husband, Joseph)
 - iv. This young virgin girl would be the mother of God’s promise to David, God’s covenant to the world; God’s promise to you!

- C. Now, with Mary, God changes locations...
 - i. God is on the move – from Heaven...
 - ii. To the Temple of Jerusalem...
 - iii. To a new Temple – the womb of the Virgin Mary
 - iv. God dwells in the Temple of Mary’s body – to be born a King who will establish a kingdom that will last forever
 - v. He will come as the Good Shepherd – who comes to tend us confused, wandering, lost sheep
 - vi. He will come as the Mighty Warrior – giving a death blow to the Evil One by Himself dying on the cross
 - vii. He will come as the King of kings and the Lord of lords – triumphant over death and the grave

- viii. He will come, not to establish an everlasting kingdom for Himself → but for you, and me, that we may live with Him forever in heaven
- ix. This is possible only through the forgiveness of sins, which the Son of David comes to accomplish for us all

V. You are going to have a Baby

- A. By now, many of you are getting excited about the gifts we open at Christmas – who doesn't like a gift?
 - i. Gabriel came and announced God's gift to Mary – the Son of David in her body
 - ii. Gabriel's announcement to Mary was for the ears and souls of all the world...
 - iii. For this announcement is God's Christmas GIFT to us all!
 - iv. Mary's Baby, God's Son – is for us all... to save us! Amen.