

## Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with

God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

I think the last time I preached on this passage, I spoke about Mary, and how she found favour with God... – not because she deserved God's favour. "The favour of God" is what we call grace...

And Mary recognised this herself. In what we know as the Magnificat, she said,

Luke 1:48 (ESV)

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant....

What she's saying, is: "I'm a nobody. I don't deserve this."

And so, it was a really good launching-pad, for us to talk about the Grace of God, and how God's favour is totally undeserved...

And so, that's what we focused on a few years ago... But today we're going to focus on what it tells us about Jesus...

You see, with Christmas, often we turn it into a pageant...

The:

- baby;
- shepherds;
- angels;

- wise men & their gifts;
- no room at the inn...

But Christmas isn't meant to be a pageant – Christmas is the most profound moment in the history of this earth. It's about God taking on the flesh of a man – but not a man of full strength and maturity – God, stepping down to become the most fragile of creatures...

The truth of the matter is, Jesus was born, to be executed on the cross, to pay the penalty of our sins...

But even in this Christmas Bible reading we read today, we gaze beyond:

- His birth;
- His death; we even
- His resurrection.

We look all the way forward to His **second** coming.

V<sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Isn't it amazing, that this little baby, born out of wedlock, **will** be called the Son of the Most High.

....

What do you believe about Jesus? Do you believe that He **is** the Son of the Most High.?

I mean, this is critical... If Jesus was just an ordinary man, or perhaps a little bit special, it doesn't really mean that much. But if Jesus truly is the Son of the Most High, well that changes everything.

If the Son of the Most High :

- was born and laid in a feed trough;
  - died to save us from our sins;
  - calls us to repentance and commitment to Him;
  - says, “Leave everything to follow Me” ,,,
- that changes everything...

Those who put their faith in the Son of the Most High, and surrender their lives to Him, have life, but those who reject the Son of the Most High – Uh-Oh...

Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God is glorified when we confess Jesus as Lord... Is He our Lord? Is He our everything???

You see, there's a lot of people in this world today who would say "Yes, Jesus is my Lord"... but for them, it's all just words... For Jesus to be Lord, means something:

- we bow our knee before Him, but they don't;
- live as if Jesus is our master, but many don't

They live as if they are their own master... And we all do that sometimes, hey???

And that's why it's good for us to be reminded today, that Jesus is **the Son of the Most High**

That's so humbling... And because He is **the Son of the most High**, it is right to worship Him. The birth of Jesus, is an event that is filled with worship – the worship of the:

- Angels;
- shepherds;
- Magi;
- Zachariah;
- Mary;
- Elizabeth...

But what is worship? In church, we tend to have a habit of rendering worship down to singing a song; a matter of words;....

But the worship our Lord wants, is this:

**Romans 12:1 (ESV) .... to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

Yes, worship is about praising God, but it's much more than that. .... Over the last few weeks (Colossians), we've been learning about 'taking off self' and 'putting on Christ'. And the way we live (with Christ in our hearts), is honouring God, and this is true worship....

And so, it's good for us to be reminded that Jesus is **the Son of the Most High** – it leads us to worship.

For many people, they love Christmas, but they miss the whole point of Christmas, because they're not moved to worship **the Son of the Most High**.

The second thing we're being reminded about Jesus, is that Jesus is returning again...

At the cross, death wasn't the end. Jesus was raised... But that's not the end of the story either. Jesus ascended into Heaven, but that's not the end of the story either. When Jesus returns, this will be the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies... It was prophesied that the Son of David would always sit on the throne of Israel.

You know, it must've been pretty devastating for Israel, when David's own son, Solomon, turned his heart to other gods; and then David's grandson (Rehoboam) lost half the Kingdom – the Kingdom was divided between the North and the South...

So much for the Kingdom – split in two...

But this prophecy, will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, at His second coming... Jesus Christ, is the Son of David, who will sit on the throne, forever... **and of his kingdom there will be no end.**

This is what Israel had been longing for, for years. And this is what Palm Sunday was about. When the crowds lined the streets, waving palm leaves and laying their coats down to carpet the road, for Jesus to ride the donkey across, they were welcoming their King...

But it was only a few days later, they changed their shouts of "Hosanna"/welcome/praise, to shouts of "Crucify Him!!!"...

When Jesus returns, this time, He **will** be coming as King... He **will** be coming as Saviour, for all those who are anxiously waiting for Him...

And that's the day that all Christians are waiting for. Whether we be of Jewish heritage; or Gentile Heritage, we wait for, and we pray for the Day of The Lord – the day that Jesus will return. And we are told: <sup>33</sup> **and he will reign over the**

house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Have you had enough of this kingdom? Have you had enough of the corrupt politics of this age??? We need a King – a king of:

- honour;
- integrity;
- justice;
- merciful;
- loving;
- kind...

and that King is Jesus...

And so, for disciples of Jesus, Christmas is a time to celebrate, as we look forwards, in expectation... .. Let's not concentrate on the pageant of a royal birth, but on the coronation of our coming King, and on His Royal wedding, as He comes to claim His holy bride...

Are you ready for that day???

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the birth of Your Son.

We thank You for the promise of His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, and the promise that He will sit on the throne of David, and that of His Kingdom, there will be no end.

Lord, we Long for this day,



And we pray, "Come Lord Jesus"

Amen.