

# Reality of Christmas

A Christmas devotional comparing the first coming of Christ, to the second coming. The idea is to consider what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to believe something that had NEVER happened before. Then we can consider what it is like for US to believe He is coming in the clouds to take his bride away, something that has NEVER happened before.

So gather your family on Christmas morning, Christmas eve, or whenever you would want to have a Christmas devotion together. Enjoy talking about God's Word together as a family.

## Scriptures to read:

*ISAIAH 7:14*

*14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

*ISAIAH 9:6,7*

*6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

**This was prophesying of Jesus' birth. 740 years before it happened.**

*LUKE 1:26 - 38*

*26 ¶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,*

*27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

*28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

### Quotation of Bro William Branham

52-0810A I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Now, as soon as she read this, or she seen this before her, and the Angel of the Lord said, "You're going to have a **baby.**" **Look what she had to believe. Well, she had to believe something that had never happened.** Zacharias didn't have to... Plenty times did that happen through the Scriptures. He had plenty of examples. **But Mary had to believe something that was total impossible, and had never happened before.** But yet, she didn't stagger at it; she just said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me." She took God at His Word.

### Notes

The prophesy of Isaiah 7 and 9 happened around 740 BC. 740 years before it came to pass.

Mary was a young teenage girl from a very small town. She likely thought she was nothing special at all.

## Discussion

Think about what it must have been like for Mary to have witnessed this angel coming to her as we just read in Luke chapter 1. Many times we think of people in the Bible as being heroes from stories, but they were normal people, just like you, your brothers, your sisters, and your parents.

**Ask:** Do you think Mary believed the prophecy that a virgin would have a baby boy? Even if it has been SUCH a long time since the prophecy was given?

**Ask:** If you were Mary, how would you feel? Would you feel that the prophecy was impossible?

**Ask:** Do you think Mary expected to have an Angel come to her that day? Or ever?

**Ask:** If you were Joseph, would you be expecting a girl you knew to have God's son? Would you expect it to happen to YOUR future wife?

**Ask:** How do you think Mary and Joseph felt after the angel came to them?

If we're honest with ourselves, it must have seemed so unlikely, even impossible, for this prophesy to come to pass in Mary and Joseph's lives. They weren't anyone special, they weren't a king or queen, they weren't heroes. They were normal believers that loved God.

God is coming back for a bride of people just like Joseph and Mary. Normal believers that love God and are looking for Jesus to come back and fulfill the prophecy of Acts 1:11 which says:

*ACTS 1:11*

*11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

**Ask:** Do you sometimes feel this prophecy (Acts 1:11) is impossible, because it's never happened before?

**Ask:** Do you feel like Jesus' second coming will happen to you? Just like His first coming happened to Mary?

**Ask:** Think about Jesus' coming back for a minute. Taking you away to heaven. Is it a scary thought to you? Do you think Mary was scared when the Angel came to her?

It's ok to be scared, or nervous about what it will be like. We don't know exactly how it will be that Jesus comes. We don't know when it will be that Jesus comes. We only know that He said He was coming back for those that love Him and believe on His name.

Mary *was* scared when an angel came to her. The angel said in Luke 1:30 – FEAR NOT.

So, it's ok to be a little scared about the unknown!

Mary was also nervous about HOW it was all going to happen. She asked the angel in verse 34 "How shall this be?"

This Christmas, let's worship the Lord Jesus Christ and think about how his coming to be born as a baby to a humble little family, seemed impossible and unlikely to happen to Mary and Joseph. But IT HAPPENED. Then let's put ourselves in their shoes, as WE are Mary's and Joseph's looking forward to His SECOND COMING - that WILL HAPPEN.

That's one thing we can learn this Christmas. Prophecy HAS been fulfilled, and that's why we have Christmas. We can look forward to the prophecy that WILL BE fulfilled. That Jesus will come again. Just like He said He would.

No wonder we say MERRY Christmas! - It reminds us He's coming again for us!

Luke 1:37-38

*37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

*38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*



