

The announcement to Mary: Luke 1:26-38 (NIRV)

²⁶ In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. ²⁷ He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has given you special favor. He is with you."

²⁹ Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. ³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. ³³ He will rule forever over his people, who came from Jacob's family. His kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Your relative Elizabeth is old. And even she is going to have a child. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible with God."

³⁸ "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Questions:

1. Who was sent from God to speak with Mary? (v 26)
2. What was the angel's message? (v 30-33)
3. How did the angel say this would happen? (v 35)
4. What was Mary's response? (v 38) What does this tell us about her?
5. What risks did Mary take when she agreed to God's plan?

Announcement to Joseph: Matthew 1:18-25 (NIRV)

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph was a godly man. He did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All of this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, ²³ "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel."—(*Isaiah 7:14*) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

²⁴ Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not make love to her until after she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

Questions:

1. What did Joseph plan to do when he found out Mary was pregnant? (v 19)
2. What happened that caused him to change his mind? (v 20-21)

Note: The prophet Isaiah gave the message that the virgin (Mary) would give birth to God's Son (Immanuel) – Jesus – approximately 700 years before Jesus was born.