



## WORD

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup> Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. <sup>30</sup> "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!" <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end! <sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. **Luke 1:26-35**

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## 1 An awesome God with awesome news.

When the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear a child, understandably, Mary questioned how this would come to pass when she was a virgin. The angel assured her by saying, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God". This completely explains the miraculous nature of the conception of Jesus - it is God alone who can make such an experience happen.

Mary was young and poor — characteristics that, in their context, would make her unfit for such a major role. But God had set His eyes on Mary and specifically called her for a very important task. Just like Mary, you may feel unworthy of the calling God has called you into- that your skills, knowledge, and experiences are not enough. Do not limit God. Trust God for the calling He has given you because He will use you.

The angel Gabriel heralded the awesome news of salvation when he announced the birth of Jesus to Mary. In her obedience, Mary was not only used by God for his plan to bring about our salvation, but she herself experienced this good news firsthand. As people of God who have been recipients of the same good news, let us be a blessing to others by obeying Him, living out His salvation and sharing the gospel to them.

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## 2 Jesus is Yeshua—“God our salvation”.

The name, Jesus, is a Greek form of the Hebrew, Yeshua, which means “God, our salvation”. Jesus is indeed our God who saves.

Why is Jesus’ birth to a virgin important to the Christian faith? Because Jesus was born of a woman, this makes Him human while also being the Son of God, holy and sinless. Jesus was fully man and fully divine. Because Jesus lived as a man, He understands human experiences and struggles. Because He is God, He has the power and authority to deliver people from sin. His blood and His sinless life made Him the perfect sacrifice to redeem humanity from all sin. This is the good news of salvation.

*“God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died, in our place. Three days later He rose from the dead, proving He is the Son of God and offering the Gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins to anyone who repents and believes in Him” - Rice Brooks*

God’s salvation is freely given to us through favor and grace. And this salvation is not only eternal but is available to us today – we are saved from oppression, condemnation, and sin, all because of Jesus, Yeshua, our God who saves!

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### APPLICATION

- Are there areas in your life that need restoration? Pray and receive God’s salvation over that area of your life.
- Think of the people in your life who are in dire need of hearing the Gospel. Pray for them and speak blessing over them. Share with

them the good news of Jesus. Encourage them to know the God who saves.

## PRAYER

**Worship** Jesus, our Savior and Lord! Jesus, the name God chose to reveal Himself as man incarnate. Yeshua means "Yahweh saves". Spend time worshiping Him and His name. The only name in heaven and on earth that can save! The name above all names. Bring Him a sacrifice of praise everyday this whole week.

**Of His Kingdom, there will be no end.** Jesus is not only Savior, He is Lord and King! We are grateful subjects of His kingdom. Pray that His kingship in your life will be magnified. Pray for someone (a family member, colleague, classmate, friend, or boss) to know our wonderful and benevolent King. Pray that the Church will advance strategically in this nation.

**Power of the Most High.** The Holy Spirit came upon Mary to do the one and only miraculous birth in the history of humanity. Today, we have the privilege to ask Him to overshadow us so we can fulfill His will wherever we go. Pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to use your life as a powerful and effective witness. Pray that every member of your life group be anointed with power and might.



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