

Church of God Sunday School

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHRIST

Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:5-56

Many years ago, Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. After they disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, they had to leave the Garden of Eden. But God gave them hope. One day a Savior would come. Sin had separated Adam and Eve from God, but a Savior would come to save people from their sins.

Through the years, God's people (Israel) continued to look for this Savior, wondering when He would come. Now the time had finally come! This is how it happened.

There was a young girl named Mary, who lived in the city of Nazareth (*NA-zuh-ruhth*). One day she had a very unusual visitor. God sent an angel to visit Mary. His name was Gabriel (*GAY-bree-uhl*).

Gabriel told Mary she was very special and blessed. The angel told her to fear not; she had found favor with God. She would "bring forth a son," and his name would be "JESUS."

Mary asked, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Although she was betrothed (engaged) to Joseph, she was not married yet. The angel told 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."

The angel Gabriel told Mary that her cousin, Elisabeth, was also going to have a son. This must have been a surprise to Mary, for Elisabeth was "in her old age" and had not been able to have children. The angel told Mary that "with God nothing shall be impossible."

Mary might not have understood all that the angel said to her, but she was willing to be obedient to the will of God. She told the angel, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Soon after Gabriel's visit, Mary went to the city of Juda to visit her cousin Elisabeth and her husband, Zacharias. As Mary entered the house, she "saluted [or greeted] Elisabeth." Immediately, Elisabeth knew that Mary was to be the "mother of my Lord," or the mother of the Savior. What a wonderful visit these two cousins must have had! Mary stayed with her cousin for about three months, and then she returned to her own home.

The angel of the Lord also visited Joseph (the man to whom Mary was engaged) in a dream. He said to

Joseph, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."

Then the angel told Joseph that the baby would be called JESUS and that He would "save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he "did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him."

A baby was coming—not just any baby, but the most special baby ever born!

This baby would grow up and become our Savior. He would die on the Cross for the sins of the whole world. How much God must have loved every one of us! He sent us the gift of His only Son—Jesus Christ. It is up to you and me to decide

whether or not we will accept this precious gift.



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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."* —Matthew 1:21  
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