

# Luke 1:26-33

*“The King of Jacob”*

*February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## 1. Intro

- a. Two weeks ago, in our study on the Gospel of Luke, we had our first NEW TESTAMENT introduction to the angel, Gabriel
  - i. Gabriel is portrayed as the “messenger” angel in the Scriptures
    1. He stands in the presence of God Himself, and he is sent to bring messages to God’s people in some of their darkest times
    2. The first time we read of Gabriel is actually back in the Old Testament, when Gabriel was sent to Daniel to give him an interpretation of a troubling vision
      - a. But then, over four hundred years later, Gabriel is again sent with a message
      - b. And his message to the faithful priest, Zechariah, was that his wife, Elizabeth, would bear a son in her old age, and this son would prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of the King
        - i. A stunning message indeed!
    - ii. But then, last week, we saw Zechariah’s response to this incredible word from Gabriel
      1. Zechariah didn’t just have a moment of doubt or uncertainty
      2. Zechariah chose to not believe Gabriel’s words to him
        - a. In his heart, Zechariah chose not to believe in the promises of God
          - i. And the consequences for Zechariah’s sin of unbelief were serious...
            1. He was struck both mute and deaf for the next nine months because of his unbelief
      3. But that wasn’t the end of the story, was it?
        - a. Even in the midst of Zechariah’s unbelief, God continued to work all things together according to HIS purpose
          - i. Elizabeth soon conceived a child in her womb
          - ii. And the reproach she had endured for almost her entire life was rolled away
            1. The stage was now set for Gabriel’s most important message that he would deliver in the Scriptures
              - a. Let’s turn in our Bibles to Luke chapter 1, verses 26-33

## 2. Luke 1:26-33

- a. *<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 favored 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 favor 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.”*
- b. We’ll stop at verse 33 this morning...
  - i. What an amazing message!!
    1. Friends, this announcement marks the very pinnacle of the Word of God
      - a. All of the Old Testament was leading up to this one point in history...



- b. It's REALLY hard for us to fathom in our culture today, but back in those days, this betrothal could begin at an age as early as thirteen years old!
  - i. Some scholars believe that this was how old Mary was at this time
  - ii. That is possible, but I would tend to agree with those scholars who argue that she's probably closer to 15-18 years old
    - 1. The support for this position comes from the passage we'll look at next week, when Mary sings her song of praise to the Lord
    - 2. When you look at the theological depth of her song, it seems to make more sense to attribute it to a young woman of greater maturity and learning
      - a. But to be honest, we just do not know how old Mary was
- c. But we do know that she was a virgin
  - i. And this of course is a key part of God's plan, as Matthew tells us in his Gospel, chapter 1, verses 22-23,
    - 1. <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)
- d. But WHY did Jesus have to be conceived in this way?
  - i. There are many who believe that Jesus was actually conceived through a legitimate union of Mary and Joseph, just like anyone else, and that the Holy Spirit came upon him later in life to anoint him as the Messiah
- e. Why do WE believe that Mary MUST have been a virgin?
  - i. Well, we certainly want to uphold that truth simply because that is what the Scriptures tell us
  - ii. But at an even deeper level, the virgin birth reminds us that Jesus is no ordinary man
    - 1. He is TRULY man, AND he is TRULY God
      - a. Yes, he took on human flesh as the son of Mary
      - b. But he is ALSO the Son of God
        - i. As the 1689 London Baptist Confession states, Jesus is the "brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with Him who made the world"
        - ii. The Confession goes on to say that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, in order that "two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person..."
        - iii. This person is very God and very man, yet ONE Christ, the only Mediator between God and man!
    - 2. The virgin conception of Jesus isn't just a minor fact in our theology

- a. It is absolutely essential to WHO Jesus was, and who he STILL is today, and who he will continue to be throughout the ages
    - iii. Jesus is fully God, and Jesus is fully man
  - 2. The second crucial piece of information that Luke gives us in verse 27 is that Mary was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David
    - a. This isn't just a nice little sidenote explaining Joseph's ancestry
      - i. This is a MASSIVE statement concerning the faithfulness of our God
      - ii. Mary was not just betrothed to any man, from any lineage
        - 1. She was betrothed to Joseph, of the house of David
        - 2. And while Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, who he was and from whom he came mattered DEEPLY
          - a. Just look back at the Scripture that Joshua read for us this morning from Jeremiah
    - b. Jeremiah 33:19-22 says,
      - i. *<sup>19</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: <sup>20</sup>“Thus says the LORD: If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, <sup>21</sup>then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers. <sup>22</sup>As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me.”*
    - c. My friends, our God is a COVENANT-KEEPING God!
      - i. Think about the covenant that God made with Noah
        - 1. He told Noah that He would never again flood the earth as He did in those days
        - 2. And the sign of this covenant – this promise – was what?
          - a. A rainbow in the sky, right?
          - b. Every time the storm clouds break, and you look up in the sky and see the beautiful colors of the rainbow, you can be absolutely, 100% confident... the rains WILL stop
            - i. God WILL NOT flood the entire earth
            - ii. For this is the Covenant that He WILL keep
        - 3. But how often do we get to see a rainbow?
          - a. Maybe just a handful of times out of the year
      - d. But look at what God said to Jeremiah...
        - i. Did you see the sunrise this morning?
        - ii. Can we see the day shining through the windows?
        - iii. Will the sun set later on this evening, as it does every other day?
          - 1. God says to Jeremiah, “As sure as there will be day, and as sure as there will be night, my covenant with David will NEVER be broken!!”
          - 2. So we don't have to wait for a rainbow to know that God keeps His promises
            - a. Just go outside and see the day
            - b. Go outside tonight and see the night

- i. The fact that these things happen precisely as they are supposed to – day after day after day – shouts out to us, the Son of David will ALWAYS reign on the throne, because that is what God has PROMISED!!
  - 3. This promise that God made to David is found in 2 Samuel 7
    - a. In this passage, we read these words from the Lord,
      - i. *<sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup>but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*
    - b. The immediate reference in this passage is to David's son, Solomon
      - i. It was Solomon who would build the Temple, the house for the Lord's name
      - ii. Sadly, it was also Solomon who committed MUCH iniquity, and the Lord disciplined the house of David for many centuries to follow
      - iii. But, in spite of all of this, the steadfast love of the Lord NEVER departed from David's house
    - c. And the great fulfillment of God's promise to David is right here in our passage in Luke
      - i. It would come through Joseph, of the House of David
      - ii. Joseph's son, Jesus would come from the line of David
        - 1. But he was the TRUE son of God, and God was his TRUE Father
      - iii. And, unlike Solomon, Jesus never committed iniquity, did he?
        - 1. He never once sinned
        - 2. He never once disobeyed his Father
        - 3. He never once committed iniquity against our holy and righteous God
      - iv. But the Scriptures tell us that the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all
        - 1. The one who knew no sin, became sin in our place
        - 2. The Lord disciplined him with the rod of men
        - 3. And he disciplined him with the stripes of the sons of men
      - v. Yet in all of this, the steadfast love of the Father NEVER departed from His Son
        - 1. Through Jesus, the Davidic Covenant would be fulfilled
          - a. For CHRIST'S Kingdom has been made SURE before the Father – it has been established FOREVER!
4. This is the underlying message behind those few words in verse 27, *"... to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David."*
  - a. For Gabriel goes on to say in verses 32-33, *<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."*

- i. Jesus has been given the throne of his Father David
      - ii. As sure as the day and the night, he will reign over the House of Jacob, for all eternity!
    - 5. But what does that mean for us that Jesus reigns over the House of Jacob?
      - a. What does it mean for us that he is the King of Jacob?
  - 3. First, it means that he is King, TODAY
    - a. In Luke 22, when Jesus was standing before the chief priests and scribes on the day that he would be crucified, they demanded of him, "If you are the Christ, tell us!"
      - i. And Jesus replied in verses 67-69,
        - 1. *67*"If I tell you, you will not believe, *68*and if I ask you, you will not answer. *69*But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."
        - 2. Jesus' death on the cross was immanent
          - a. The moment when he would take our sins upon himself would come within a few short hours
          - b. The moment when the wrath of the Father would be directed fully at His Son, and the Father would crush the Son on our behalf, was at hand
        - 3. But Jesus knew what was on the other side, didn't he?
          - a. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that, *"For the JOY set before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of throne of God."*
            - i. Jesus KNEW the JOY that awaited him after he had fully obeyed
            - ii. He KNEW that he would be seated at the right hand of the power of God
        - 4. Christ is reigning as King, TODAY!
      - ii. But even as we say that, there's a pause in our hearts, isn't there?
        - 1. When we turn on the news, it doesn't FEEL like Christ is reigning, does it?
          - a. We have a huge crisis going on at our southern border
          - b. Our economy has felt like a crazy roller coaster these past few years
          - c. There's uncertainty about what will happen around the world, as we see wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, and major powers like Russia and China lurking behind the scenes
          - d. On top of that, we've got a huge earthquake hitting right here in Oklahoma over the weekend
        - 2. When we look at all these things, it is hard to see how Christ is truly reigning over everything today
          - a. Sure, we can give the churchy answer that this is all a part of God's plan, which I agree – it certainly is
          - b. But is there more to Jesus reigning over the House of Jacob than that?
      - iii. I would argue that there absolutely is more to the story! Turn with me in your Bibles to Ephesians, chapter 1
        - 1. At the end of this chapter, Paul is telling the believers in Ephesus how he is always giving thanks to the Lord for them in his prayers
          - a. He tells them that he is praying that God would give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation, as they begin to know God more deeply
          - b. He prays that they would understand the riches of the glorious inheritance that awaited them
          - c. And then, starting in verse 19, Paul prays that they would know the immeasurable greatness of God's power toward them
            - i. *This power, he says, is <sup>19</sup>"according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and*

*seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

- d. So all things are indeed under Christ's feet, but what SPECIFICALLY does he rule over, TODAY?
  - i. Christ rules over his Church!!
    1. Yes, this is the global church that is advancing throughout the world, even as we speak
    2. But it is also US, right here at Forest Hills Baptist Church, in Sapulpa, Oklahoma
      - a. I've said it before, and I will keep saying it – this is not MY church – this is CHRIST'S church!
        - i. My friends, if we as Christians would keep this one truth in focus, how different could things be?
        - ii. The squabbles about paint colors and the style of carpet in the auditorium would disappear
        - iii. The worship wars of the old hymns vs. the newer, modern worship would fall by the wayside
        - iv. The bickering about who gets recognized for this, and who gets honored for that, would be gone
      3. If we would just remember that Jesus reigns over THIS house, just think about the possibilities!!
  2. Look again at the passage from Jeremiah 33
    - a. God speaks to Jeremiah about the Davidic Covenant, and about the promise that the Son of David will ALWAYS rule on the throne
      - i. But that's not the only thing He promises, is it?
        1. God ALSO says that, as sure as day and night will continue, His covenant with the Levitical priests will ALSO continue
        2. In verse 22, He says, *"As the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the offspring of David my servant, and the Levitical priests who minister to me."*
      - ii. Do you understand, church, WE are the fulfillment of this promise!
        1. WE are now the royal priesthood that ministers to God
        2. And Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:9 EXACTLY how we are to minister...
          - a. *<sup>9</sup>But you, church... you, Forest Hills Baptist Church, are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
    - b. Let that sink in, friends...
      - i. We are a chosen race
      - ii. We are a royal priesthood

- iii. We are a holy nation, a people for God's own possession
  - 1. WHY would God lay upon us such incredible privilege?
    - a. Peter says, SO THAT we may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light
    - b. And as we faithfully and humbly submit to our King, and proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us, God will multiply the offspring of David
      - i. And He will multiply the priests who minister before Him
      - ii. In other words, God will continue to grow His church!
  - iv. THAT is how Christ is ruling and reigning specifically today, as the church is faithful in proclaiming the excellencies of her God!
- 3. God will fulfill His end of the Covenant – He ALWAYS does
  - a. The question is, will we?
    - i. Will we see Christ as King over THIS house, and fully submit to his rule and reign in our hearts?
    - ii. Will we serve the King who sits on the throne of David, by obeying his command to go into all the nations, making disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and then teaching these new disciples to obey the commands of Jesus in the very same way?
    - iii. Will we minister before God as his royal priesthood, proclaiming the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light?
  - b. God HAS fulfilled His end of the covenant – Christ rules as King, TODAY
    - i. So what will WE do in light of that truth?
- 4. But Christ's rule and reign is NOT just for today
  - a. For there will come a day when he will return
  - b. There will come a day when the Son of Man will come on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory
    - i. He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call
    - ii. And they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other
      - 1. On THAT day, as Paul writes in Philippians 2:10-11,
        - a. <sup>10</sup>...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.
      - 2. On THAT day, heaven will open, and the One called Faithful and True will come riding on a white horse
        - a. In righteousness, he will judge and make war
        - b. His eyes will be like flames of fire
        - c. On his head will be many crowns
        - d. And he will bear a name that no one knows but himself
        - e. His robe will be dipped in blood
        - f. And he will be called the Word of God
        - g. The armies of heaven will follow this King
        - h. And from his mouth will come a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations



- i. He will rule them with a rod of iron
  - j. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty
  - k. And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords!
- iii. My friends, Jesus rules and reigns over his church today, and he will rule FULLY over ALL the nations on the day that he returns
  - 1. The Lord God has given to His Son the throne of David
    - a. Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob, FOREVER
    - b. And of His Kingdom, there will be NO end
  - 2. Will we be ready to meet our King on that Day?
- iv. Well, this was the monumental announcement that Gabriel made to young Mary on that day in the small village of Nazareth
  - 1. Her life was certainly about to change in ways she could have never foreseen
  - 2. We'll see next week how she responded to such a word
    - a. But as we close today, and move into a time of reflection before we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we must ask ourselves...
      - i. What is OUR response to such things?
        - 1. When we look at our life today, can we honestly say that we are living a life submitted to the rule of Jesus over our hearts?
        - 2. If someone else were to evaluate our lives, and look at our words, or our actions, or where we spend our time and our finances, would they look at all of that and say, "Now there is one who truly follows after their King!"?
      - ii. If you are sitting here today, and you realize that you are not fully surrendered to the King of kings and Lord of lords in YOUR heart, well now is the time to make that right
        - 1. And its as simple as this:
          - a. CONFESS your sins to him
          - b. CONFESS your pride or stubbornness
          - c. CONFESS your apathy or lack of zeal for his name
          - d. CONFESS the hidden sins within your heart
        - 2. Repent from your sin, and turn back to the Lord your God
          - a. And the Bible is clear, forgiveness will be yours, just like that!
            - i. Not because you have earned your way back into God's favor
            - ii. But because God is a COVENANT-KEEPING God!
- iii. So examine your hearts this morning, friends
  - 1. Get things right before you and your King
    - a. He already knows it all already anyways
    - b. What he wants to see is if YOU will obey!