

Memory Verse

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.”

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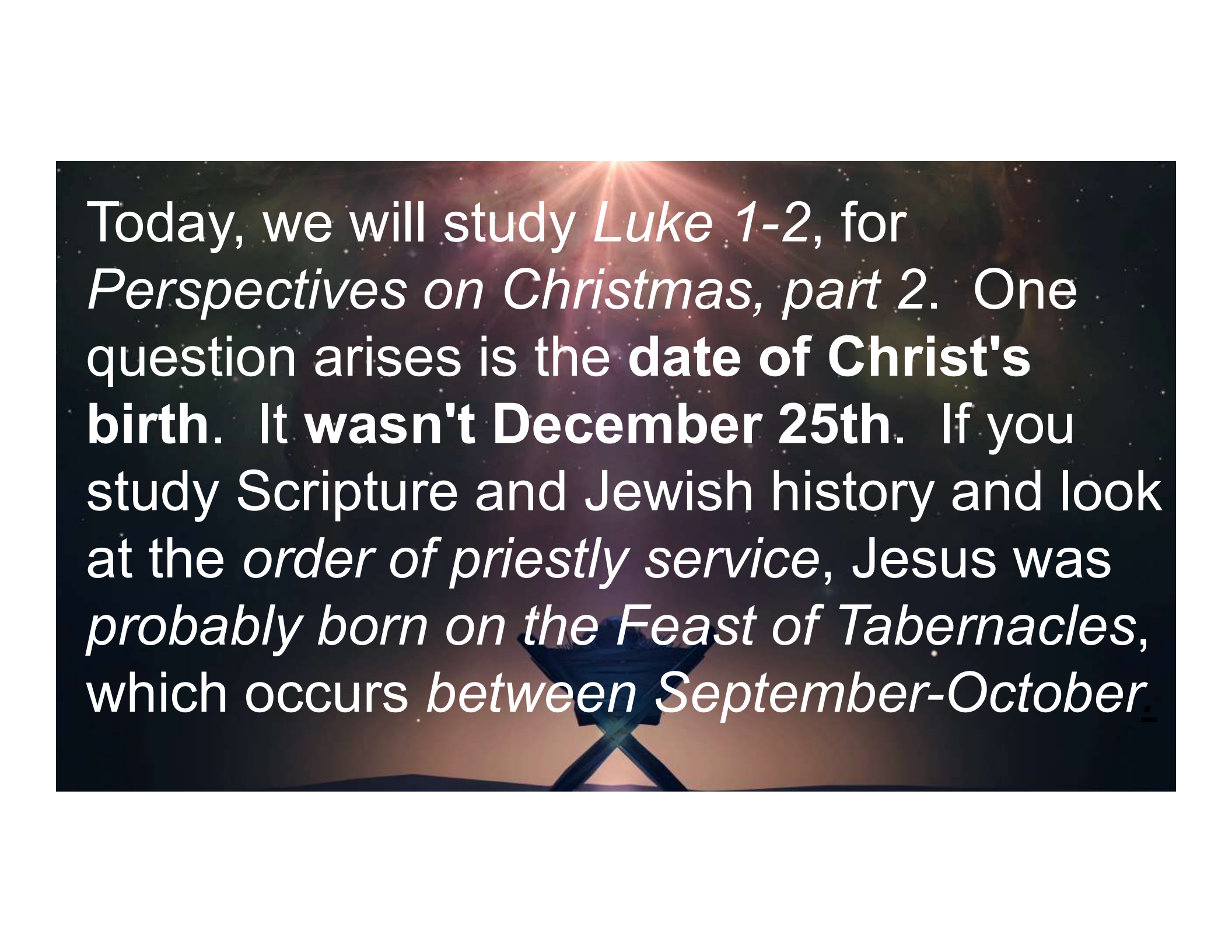


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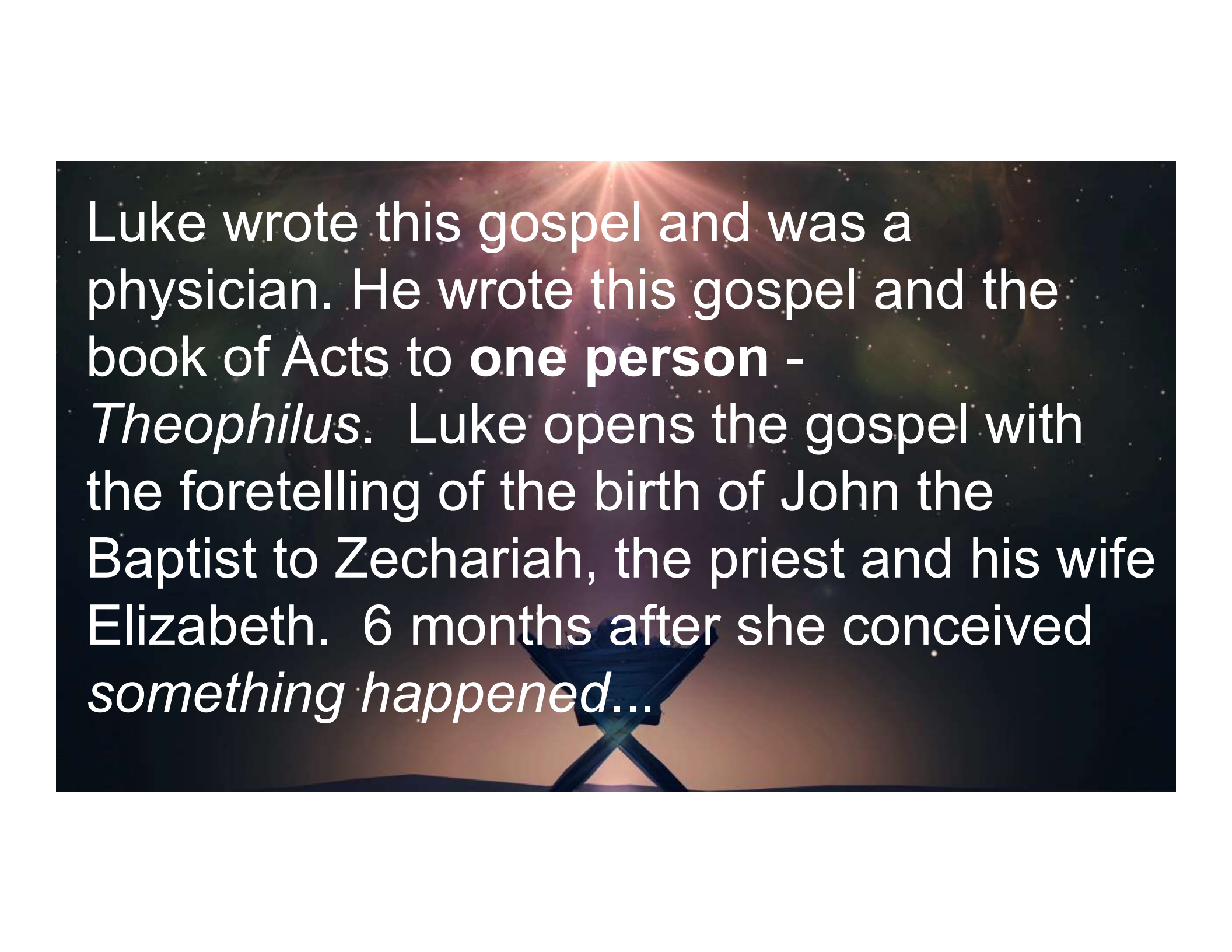


PERSPECTIVES ON CHRISTMAS PART 2

LUKE 1:26-2:22



Today, we will study *Luke 1-2*, for *Perspectives on Christmas, part 2*. One question arises is the **date of Christ's birth**. It wasn't **December 25th**. If you study Scripture and Jewish history and look at the *order of priestly service*, Jesus was *probably born on the Feast of Tabernacles*, which occurs *between September-October*




Luke wrote this gospel and was a physician. He wrote this gospel and the book of Acts to **one person** - *Theophilus*. Luke opens the gospel with the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah, the priest and his wife Elizabeth. 6 months after she conceived *something happened...*

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with

Luke 1:26-38

you!” 29But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

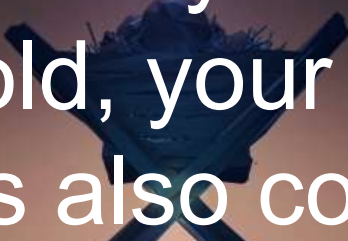


Luke 1:26-38

32He 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, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a

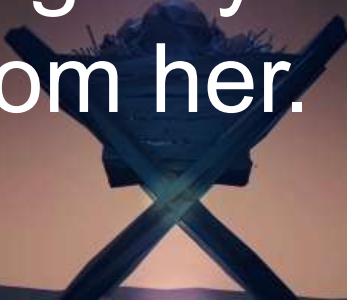
Luke 1:26-38

virgin?” 35And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son,



Luke 1:26-38

and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.



A. 1:26-38 - Mary - Confusion to Submission

Mary was probably about 13 years old, and a virgin. She was *betrothed* , or *committed to Joseph* . In Judaism, they were *considered married* , but did **not live together** , nor have a *sexual relationship yet* . A young Jewish girl was going about her daily life and routine. She *doesn't know an angel appeared to Zechariah* . **Gabriel** was sent by God to her!

A. 1:26-38 - Mary - Confusion to Submission

The word refers to *grace*. God gave grace or favor to her, and *He was with her*. She was **not perfect**, and was afraid because the *angel says not to fear*. Then he tells her she has been chosen to bear a Son - *Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of the Most High*. He will be given the throne of His Father David, in *fulfillment of the Davidic covenant in 2 Samuel 7*.

A. 1:26-38 - Mary - Confusion to Submission

Mary was **confused**: vs. 34. She asked how she will *give birth to a Son*, because she was a virgin! The Holy Spirit and *power of God* will overshadow her, and her Son will be holy - *The Son of God*.



A. 1:26-38 - Mary - Confusion to Submission

What was her response? **Submission**: vs. 38. She said, "God's will be done," though I'm sure she didn't fully understand what was going on. She **did know some things**, but *not other things*. What a *magnificent young woman* she must have been.

She was a sinner like everyone and confessed her need for a Savior in *Luke 1:47*.

B. 1:39-56 – Elizabeth and John the Baptist - Rejoicing

Mary learned about Elizabeth's pregnancy from Gabriel. *Elizabeth is 6 months pregnant* and probably Mary's aunt. That makes John the Baptizer, Jesus cousin.





B. 1:39-56 – Elizabeth and John the Baptist - Rejoicing

She was *filled with the Holy Spirit* and proclaimed a blessing on Mary and Jesus. Note she said *the mother of her Lord came to her* in verse 43. This echoes David's words in *Psalms 110*, The LORD said unto my Lord... Elizabeth *looked forward to Messiah's coming* by **faith**, like David.

C. 1:57-80 – Zechariah - Fulfillment

John is born and named. Zechariah's had been *struck mute* by the angel because of his unbelief previously. After he names John, he could speak and *prophecies*.




C. 1:57-80 – Zechariah - Fulfillment

Filled with the Spirit, he proclaimed Jesus as the **fulfillment** of God's covenants to the Jewish fathers: Abraham and more. Jesus is the warrior King who will *rescue His people Israel from their enemies*. This did **not** happen in His lifetime, though many expected it. It **will happen**, because this is a *Messianic prophecy about the end times*.


C. 1:57-80 – Zechariah - Fulfillment

There are *hundreds of direct and indirect prophecies about Jesus*, written between 400 to 1500 years before His birth? *Isaiah 7* - a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. Some dismiss the Hebrew word *alma*. It is translated as *virgin* in the *Septuagint*, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament.



C. 1:57-80 – Zechariah - Fulfillment

Jesus is the *eternal Son of God*. He **did not begin** at conception or birth, thus the *child was born*. *God the Son took on human flesh*. He **will rule** and have a government and Kingdom. He *fulfilled prophecy* at His first coming, and He *will fulfill prophecy* at His second coming.



D. 2:1-7 – Joseph and Mary - Providentially Prepared

Verses 1-2 state a decree from Caesar Augustus took place. He was the Emperor of the Roman Empire from 31BC-14AD. While there are some difficulties with this, God is never wrong. One census historian's reference in 6AD is connected to Quarinus. Luke mentions this census in Acts 5:31.

D. 2:1-7 – Joseph and Mary - Providentially Prepared

He was the governor of Syria from 6-7AD, but that's too late, as Jesus was born about 4BC. It may have begun about a decade earlier and in 6AD. Or Quarinus had another position about 6/5BC. Another possibility is another translation of *verse 2*, stating *before Quarinus became governor of Syria*, there was a census.

**D. 2:1-7 – Joseph and Mary - Providentially
Prepared**

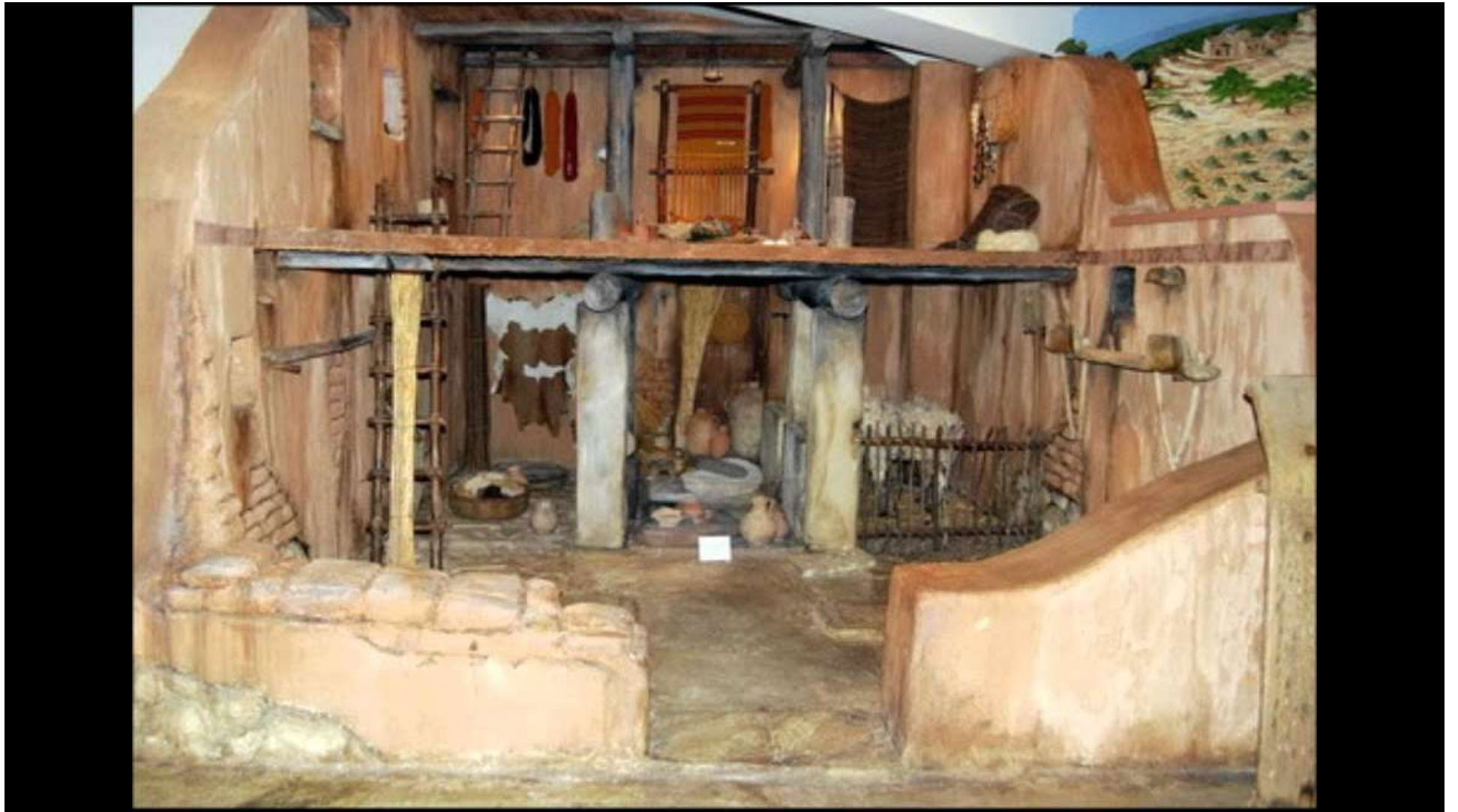
God providentially used this historical event to bring Joseph and Mary to *Bethlehem*, a small village, for Jesus to be born. It was also to **fulfill prophecy** in *Micah 5:2*.

They had to go back to their family home because Joseph was *descended from David*, of the *tribe of Judah*. **He was in line to be King.**



D. 2:1-7 – Joseph and Mary - Providentially Prepared

The Greek word is *kataluma*, and is also used *Luke 22:11* for the "upper room," or "guest room" where Jesus and the disciples met for Passover. The word means a *lodging place*. Biblically and historically, Joseph and Mary went to a *family's home*. There was no room left in the *upper part of a Jewish home*.





D. 2:1-7 – Joseph and Mary - Providentially Prepared


What is providence?

It is under the umbrella of His sovereign control, where He organizes and orchestrates all things and uses them for His purposes and plan in our lives.



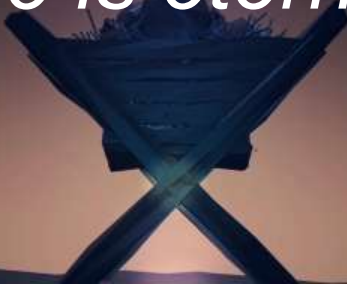
E. 2:8-14 – Angels - Declaration

An *angel appears* to shepherds and **declared** good news! In the *city of David*, a Savior, Christ, the Messiah, the Lord was born! **That** was the *sign*, not a baby in swaddling clothes, which was common. The *heavenly host appeared* and said - *Glory to God in the heights and on earth, peace towards men of goodwill*, which is what the *phrase refers*.



E. 2:8-14 – Angels - Declaration

Jesus is the long awaited and promised Messiah or *Anointed One*. He is **Lord!** He is God the Son, the Son of God, who took on human flesh and died in our place, for our sin on the cross. These angels **declared** *His arrival*, not His beginning, as *He is eternal*, but **His arrival on earth.**




F. 2:8-20 – Shepherds – Fearing to Praising



F. 2:8-20 – Shepherds – Fearing to Praising

They were *not excited at first*. They were *terrified!* The *angel assures them*, and declares the birth and then *multitudes of angels declared the glory of God!*

What did the shepherds say to each other when the angels disappeared? "Let's go to Bethlehem!". They *rushed* and *found Jesus in the feeding trough*.





Prayer

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

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