

12102023 Hidden in plain sight part 2 **Human history is the story God wrote from eternity past. Even man's rebellion, does not surprise God: The devil won the day in Eden; he succeeded in drawing man away from his Creator. Paradise was lost – but not forever!** As the crunch of the forbidden fruit was still echoing though the Garden of Eden, the prophecy was told that a Deliverer would come:

–One who would...**Overturn the works of the Serpent and be a human**

NLT GE 3:15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike^[b] your head, and you will strike his heel.”

According to his eternal plan, God had purposed to redeem and call a people for himself from among the fallen human race.

–**He would be God in the flesh (a child,) He would be born of a virgin**

*ISA 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**. (God with us)*

The is the great joy of Christmas...the Hope of the promised birth predicted of the one who will come to save ... This Son who is eternally God; in time would also become man when he was conceived in the womb of a virgin Mary by the power of the Spirit. And this is the narrative...of the fulfilling God's promise...The promise realized! **Immanuel (God with us)**

Yet His birth was Hidden in plain sight...and Every year when we celebrate the Lord's birth it is a painful reminder to Satan and his demons of another failure to stop the plan of God.

- **And why can he not ever stop the plan of God? For he has not The Holy Spirit! though supernatural is spiritually blind...**

NLT 1 Cor2: 14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

- **the Spirit of God does not indwell him...so he is not led not taught nor enlightened by the Holy Spirit...**

And since the Holy Spirit does not enlighten his understanding, Satan operates in with the limitations of his own mind, his experiences and his imagination

- **What he thinks will, or should or might happen...which is one characteristic we have in common with him...shortsightedness..**
- **what he thinks he can figure out from scripture...what he thinks God's strategy is... which he misinterprets**
- **What he remembers from the timeless past when he resided in heaven as the guardian angel...**
- **And the history of people and how they are prone to repeat their behaviors...**

In fact reason why Satan hates people so much...because we are made in the Image of God...we remind him of God...and he hates God's people especially because God indwells us...and not him

NIV Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

NLT Eph 1: 14 The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people.

NLT John 16: 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. **It is our great advantage. The Holy Spirit**

- **And since Pride was his sin... I know it all!! He continually overlooks the humble...His puffed up knowledge continues to mislead and fail him.. so he is fooled again...in the story of Jesus...**

Today how he fulfilled his word and fooled Satan! God chose Mary!! Luke dedicates thirteen verses to the scene that describe how Mary found out she was to be Jesus' mother. Another seventeen verses from Luke 1:39-56 describe what Mary did after she received the news of her pregnancy:

like all of us she has a story... a humble young woman in humble circumstances... from a humble place....she grew up in Nazareth...the same Nazareth Philip would make this comment about Nazareth many years later when told about Jesus and his home town...

NLT John 1:45 Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

Why would Philip say that? Nazareth was located along the main highway that was traveled by caravans going from Damascus to the Mediterranean seaports and back again. Being a main throughfare of travel and commerce, it had all the trappings and vices you would expect available to the these travelers and merchants, so Mary did not grow up insulated and isolated from life –in a spiritual incubator...she walked out her faith...as we must...where we live in a fallen culture...and God blessed her for it...as he will us...and remember this was used to throw off the enemy....

As God directed the angel Gabriel to give messages to Zechariah, Gabriel now relays this message directly from God to Mary

NLT Luke 1:26 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, [d] favored woman! The Lord is with you!" 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel

could mean. ³⁰ “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God!”

- **Favored...look round.... I live in Nazarethi am a nobody living in Nazareth...where is the favor?**
- **Maybe she did not necessarily want to be married to Joseph??? Ever thought about that??**
- **Jewish marriages in biblical days customarily were arranged by the families of the bride and groom, and often times the families did not consult the potential bride and groom.**
- **While this form of matrimonial matchmaking may seem strange to those from a Western culture, there actually is at minimum a double rationale for the parental selection of marriage partners.**
- **First, this type of arranged marriage focuses the attention upon the whole family unit rather than upon the bride and groom alone.**
- **Second, it establishes love as a commitment of the will more than any emotional or physical aspects that accompany love. One scholar articulates this double rationale of love in marriage: “I love you because you are my wife (commitment love); you are my wife because I love you (emotional and physical love).”**

The engagement actually began when a contract was made and sealed by payment of what was known as the mohar. **The mohar was the “bride price” the groom or the family of the groom paid to the bride’s father.** The mohar served to compensate the father for wedding expenses and to provide a type of insurance for the bride in the event the groom became dissatisfied and divorced her.

The contract was considered binding as soon as it was made, and the man and woman were considered legally married, even though the marriage ceremony (huppah) and consummation often did not occur until as much as a year later.

According to Jewish custom, Joseph or his family would have paid Mary’s father a mohar, a bride price, which would have helped with the upcoming

marriage ceremony expenses in the future while immediately beginning their marriage as husband and wife the moment the agreement was made.

This period of betrothal was viewed in that day as a time of testing for fidelity and prohibition of any normal sexual activity reserved for when the huppah would arrive, bringing with it a family wedding ceremony followed by the consummation of the marriage.

Then the angel drops this bomb on her....

*³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give **him the name Jesus**.³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give **him the name Jesus**.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." LK 1:34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

- **Mary would become pregnant during the engagement period, which was a cultural no-no, because it would bring immense shame on her and Joseph as well as both of their families. This would follow her in her life...**
- **The fact that the Bible states this pregnancy's origin was not from man but from the Holy Spirit is a response to rumors that swirled in that day and throughout Jesus' life (cf. John 8:41).**
- **Especially toward the end of his life exemplified in this exchange with the religious leaders at the Temple..**

NLT John 8:4 Jesus told them, "These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don't know this about me.¹⁵ You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone.¹⁶ And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father^[a] who sent me is with me.¹⁷ Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact.¹⁸ I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other."¹⁹ "Where is

your father?" they asked. Jesus answered, "Since you don't know who I am, you don't know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father."

- **However, Mary's pregnancy was not in violation of her betrothal fidelity, which we know because of her question to the angel of the Lord: "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34).**
- **And his answer:**

NLT^{LK 1: 35} 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.

The theological truth is that Mary by herself couldn't produce a son—but God could give her one whose name, **Jesus, means "God saves."**

- In essence, this is the gospel: humans cannot produce their own salvation, but God can and has chosen to accomplish it for all of humanity.

³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail!

God can do what God wants He is a Miracle making God!

- *Mary agrees this is true...do your will God*

LK 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

➤ She does not get it but receives it...and trusts God...

➤ And faith is always accompanied by action.... Get away for companionship and processing

➤ *Sometimes we need affirmation of what is going on....if Elizabeth is pregnant at here age...I will have understanding and comfort*

NLT^{LK 1: 39} A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted

Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

When Mary arrived at the house of Elizabeth, the two of them exchanged greetings, and then after the greetings were exchanged, Mary *breaks out in praise....*

NLT LUKE 1:46 Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. ⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

You can praise God this week reciting this praise to him.... In the "Magnificat, we have recorded one of the greatest hymns of the church.

***It tells us a lot about Mary...* although women were generally not permitted to be educated back then,. She probably listened intently at synagogue and the rabbi possibly teaching her brothers... For The entire song occupie ten verses and yet MARY quotes from at least five Old Testament books, including the Psalms, Samuel, Isaiah, Micah, and Exodus.**

Mary was a YOUNG WOMAN who knew the Scriptures. It is a wonderful commentary on her life....SHE WAS A WOMAN OF GREAT FAITH, ...A FAITH BUILT ON THE WORD OF GOD, THE PROMISES OF GOD...AND A LIFE LIVED IN OBEDIENCE TO THAT WORD.... MAY THIS BE OUR SONG OF PRAISE THIS CHRISTMAS...

LK 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant....! She had lived a life up to this point being the Lord's servant in her humble circumstances,,and accepting them... she had a character pattern in her life of doing the will of God regardless of her town and culture...Her humility paved the way for her being used further...

.Remember this you are the servant of God...He gets to call the shots...Saying yes to God in any situation is your Cll and the requiremntn to being used in greater ways

*NLT 1 Peter 5:5And all of you, dress **yourselves** in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the **humble.**" 1 Peter 5:6 So **humble yourselves** under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.*

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