



CHAPTER 2

The Promised King

TODAY'S READING: LUKE 1:26-56.

Introduction

One of the great mysteries of God and His work is the Incarnation. We are unable to fully grasp the mystery of the 2nd person of the Trinity taking on human flesh and becoming like us in every way except for sin. Even the greatest theologians have wrestled with this topic and struggled to explain it fully. However, though we cannot explain the Incarnation, today we join the rest of the saints in marveling at it.

Bible Teaching

We can divide our passage between the three main narratives it records. Each involves Mary and the promised arrival of Jesus.

- 1:26-38. In this section the angel announces Jesus' birth to Mary. Although the Old Testament Davidic line of kings had long lain dormant, the Scripture assures us of the abiding significance of his house. Through God's progressive revelation He continually clarifies the identity of the family of the Redeemer first promised in Genesis 3:15. Both in His promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-14 and Gabriel's message to Mary God promises three things: first, a son on the throne, second, a rule established by God, and third, an everlasting reign. This Promised One will be borne in an unimaginable way; He will take on human flesh through the working of the Holy Spirit. Though our ability to fully comprehend this truth is limited, we trust God's word lest we be reproved like Job when he questions God's ways (cf. Job 38:2).
- 1:39-45. In Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the latter is filled with the Holy Spirit, unusual for the time preceding Pentecost. However, although unusual, it is not unprecedented. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is referenced 72 times (eg. Gen. 1:2; Judges 3:10; 1 Sam. 10:6). Under His inspiration, Elizabeth sings a song of praise to the Lord. This song is the first of five songs Luke records in response to the Incarnation. The others are Mary's song (1:46-56), Zechariah's prophecy (1:67-79), the angels' song (2:14), and Simeon's song (2:29-32). Elizabeth's song is not about Mary. She is simply the vessel. Mary's significance has to do with the One she carries.



THE PROMISED KING

1:46-56. In Mary's song, the 2nd response to the Incarnation, she turns away from man's achievements to stand in awe of the work of the Lord. While praising God for the splendor of His work in redemption, the song mainly contrasts the humble with the proud. Humility does not lead to redemption, but we are humbled as God redeems us.

Family Discussion

Help your family see how awesome God's work is in bringing Jesus into the world.

Little Children: Ask your children what they like about Christmas. Depending on the answer, either reinforce the amazing truth of the Incarnation, or show them how much greater the Incarnation is than grand-parent visits and presents.

Middle Children: Talk about what it means to walk humbly before the Lord and Mary's humble response to being chosen by God to carry Christ in her womb. Talk about ways you can practice humility.



Older Children: In verse 50 Mary says God's mercy 'is for those who fear him'. Discuss the difference between the slavish fear of the unbeliever who fears God's judgment and the childlike fear of the believer who stands in awe before the Lord because of His undeserved work of salvation.



Family Singing

Great King of Nations, Hear Our Prayer (Trinity Hymnal #713); O Lord, Our Lord (Psalter #8A)

Family Prayer

Thank the Lord for His condescension in the redemption of man. Ask God to help you always remember the Incarnation with awe.