

## A Surprising Announcement

*Luke 1:26-33*

*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."*

Luke's Gospel spells out the events that surround the birth of Christ with simplicity. As a physician, Luke would have been much more skeptical of most events than others. Yet, Luke gives the most detailed account and convincing arguments of the birth of Jesus. He begins with a surprising announcement by an angel.

What makes it surprising and significant?

1. Mary was engaged! Not married.  
Luke 1:27, . . . a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph. . .
2. Mary was fearful!  
Luke 1:30 . . . Do not be afraid, Mary. . .
3. Mary was the favored one!  
Luke 1:30 . . . for you have found favor with God.
4. Mary heard the impossible!  
Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son . . .
5. Mary received the child's name.  
Luke 1:31 . . . you shall name Him Jesus.