

➔ Mary was foretold the birth of Jesus

Luke 1: 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid,** Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him 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 Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

"34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "**I am the Lord's servant,**" Mary answered. "**May your word to me be fulfilled.**" Then the angel left her.

- Mary; a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.
In ancient Jewish marriage customs, the groom's father would seek a bride for his son. Upon finding a suitable woman, he would pay the bride price and enter a one-year preparatory period before cohabitation. The woman was typically around 13 years old.
- Angel Gabriel :
 - ✓ Greetings, you who are highly favored!
 - ✓ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
 - ✓ "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
 - ✓ So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God.
 - ✓ For no word from God will ever fail."

- Mary's response :

"I am the Lord's servant "May your word to me be fulfilled

God prophesied Jesus' birth centuries before He was born. The young girl Mary was also chosen as the vessel through which the Lord would come into this world. When the time was fulfilled, an angel announced God's plan to Mary. Mary responded to the angel as a servant of God. Hearing God's plan, believing in His power far beyond human understanding, she responded wholeheartedly to become His vessel.

- Joseph's response

Luke 1: 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,** because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and **took Mary home as his wife.** 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he **gave him the name Jesus.**

➔ The shepherds received the message of the birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 10 But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid.** I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,” which the Lord has told us about.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

- Angel : Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
- Response : The shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened”

➔ The Path to the Lord's Miracles

1. Receive the Lord's Word [Mary, Joseph, Shepherds]
2. Do not be afraid. Do not be unbelieving. Believe in the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Believe and act so that the Word may be fulfilled in your life. [Become the Lord's servant]
 - Mary accepted the angel's words, believing the word of God would be fulfilled in her.
 - Joseph took Mary as his wife, just as the angel had said.
 - The shepherds found the Savior, just as the angel had told them.

Twenty-five years ago, in their own places, each person received God's word, and this church began. Each person was like Mary, like Joseph, like the shepherds—they humbly received the word, believed it, and acted upon it. Over these twenty-five years, we have experienced God's wonderful, miraculous work. God made the impossible possible. God used Mary and Joseph, who had nothing, and the shepherds who were of low social standing. In the same way, this church has been built up not by our own strength or resources, but entirely by God's power. There are still unfulfilled promises: Okinawa, Hokkaido, and the Bible school. Please pray that each one of us may be used, following the faith of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds.

Application Fulfillment of God's miracle

➔ To be a servant of God

- 1, God will use each one of us to fulfill his plan on this earth.
- 2, Each one of us has a plan of God **【Mary, Joseph, Shepherds】**
Mary and Joseph brought the Savior into this world. [by God's power]
The shepherds were the first to bring the good news to the world.
- 3, We are servants of God. Our lives are not our own;
- 4, You have an important role to play in the mission of God's kingdom.
Through the Lord's power, God's work is accomplished. It cannot be done by human strength alone.
Nothing is impossible for God.
- 5, For the Lord's miracles to be fulfilled, what is needed is faith and action that are free from fear and trust in God's power.
- 6, To that end, let us engrave the Lord's words in our hearts daily. Let us pray with expectation in the Lord.

➔ To advance the gospel as a church.

Just as the shepherds acted immediately in accordance with the angel's word, let us pray and give together for the establishment of ext. churches and Bible schools that have yet to be fulfilled.