

MESSAGE NOTES

“BELIEVE ~ THE GREATEST STORY EVERY TOLD”

12.15.24

PART III

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory.” JOHN 1:14, MSG

The Christmas Story reveals the _____ of God

- A “splendid” or “remarkable work” or “miracle”
- God’s wonders show us His power
- God’s wonders show us His character
- God’s wonders show us His authority over all

A Story of Wonder...

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

²⁹Confused 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! ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³And he will reign over Israel^[E] forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

³⁴Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

³⁵The 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.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. ³⁷For the word of God will never fail.”

³⁸Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” And then the angel left her.

³⁹A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted

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

⁴²Elizabeth 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? ⁴⁴When 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.**” – LUKE 1:26-45

The Power of Wonder...

1. Wonder _____ our hearts to faith

“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.” – PSA 19:1

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory.” – JOHN 1:14, MSG

“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.” – ROM 1:20

2. Wonder _____ our joy and gratitude

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.” – PSA 16:11

“From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.” – JOHN 1:16

“God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” – ROM 5:8

3. Wonder _____ our humility and learning

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” – POV 3:5-6

“Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!” – PSA 34:8