

100 Bible Stories
52. A Message for Zechariah

Luke 1; Matthew 1 (NKJV)

^{Luke 1.26}And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

²⁹And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. ³²He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

³⁴Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"

³⁵And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷For with God nothing shall be impossible."

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

^{Matthew 1.20}And behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

²²Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

²⁴Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

Espoused /betrothed/ engaged...

Why?

How is her question different than Zachariah's response?

Why is she given a sign and not Zachariah?

This appearance is after Joseph has learned of Mary's conceiving and he's considering divorcing her.

What does this say of Joseph?