

## **Jesus Birth Foretold**

### **Luke 1:26-56**

In the sixth month, the same angel appeared to a young virgin in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. The virgin's name was Mary and she was to marry Joseph, a descendant of David.

“Hail, Mary. You have found great favor with the Lord. Don't be afraid, Mary. You have indeed found great favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son. You are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will have no end.”

“How is this to happen? I am a virgin.”

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your aged cousin is going to have a child. She who was barren is now in her sixth month. With God all things are possible.”

And Mary said, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May everything happen just as you have said.”

And the angel left her. Mary then walked the 80 miles to the hill country of Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you bear. But how is it that I am so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.

And Mary sang in praise of God  
My soul glorifies the Lord  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
For the Mighty One has done great things for me.  
Holy is His name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
From generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm  
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
But has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things.  
But has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel  
Remembering to be merciful  
To Abraham and his descendants forever  
Even as he said to our fathers.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for several weeks, learning from this wise woman and receiving encouragement for what she would face when returning home.