



TIME OF GRACE®

Grace_{notes}

guides for personal Bible study

Heroes of Christmas: Mary

Luke 1:26-28: ²⁶“In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’ ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and 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?’ ³⁵The 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 the Son of God. ³⁶Even 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. ³⁷For 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.”

Points to Ponder

1. Read Luke 1:28. Did Mary do anything to earn God’s favor?
2. Just as Mary’s favor from God was God’s gift, what is also true about you and your faith?
3. The angel said to Mary, “Don’t be afraid.” Can you think of several other times in Scripture when these words are spoken? What reassurance do they bring you?

4. Read Luke 1:38. Mary could have doubted and had lots of questions and worried about her reputation and losing her fiancé and on and on, but how did she show tremendous faith here?

5. How was Mary's "How can this be?" question different from Zechariah's "How can I be sure of this?" in Luke 1:18?

Mary is a spiritual hero for all of us because of her humble attitude and great faith. She was given an unbelievable message from an angel that she would be the mother of God's Son! And despite the hardship that would bring to her, she humbly accepted the job by faith.

What else does God say?

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

James 4:10: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.