

## Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Isaiah 7:1-16; Luke 1:26-56 / Genesis 18:1-15

### I. God Enjoys the Impossible

A. God promised Abraham a son through his wife Sarah. And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her. (Genesis 17:15-16)

- B. The promise was humanly impossible. Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? (Genesis 17:17)
- C. God eliminated any doubt about the implied supernatural intervention to provide a son and to establish the covenant of grace through him.. And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. (Genesis 17:19)
- D. It is hard to believe in the counter-intuitive. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? (Genesis 18:12)  
Sarah laughed at God.

E. God keeps His word. And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. (Genesis 21:1-2)

### II. The Impossible Is Hard to Understand

A. It seems to annoy God when His people do not expect the impossible from Him. Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:10-14)

- B. Virgin birth is not natural. How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man. (Jeremiah 31:22)
- C. One needs to be careful about falling for the obvious or setting limits when dealing with God and His promises. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (Genesis 3:16)
- D. How natural is the natural in the broad perspective of history? And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. (Genesis 4:1-2) Eve was presumptuous.
- E. Going too far can be as bad as not going far enough. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:6)
- F. Never lose sight of the mystery and wonder of the Incarnation. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. (1 Timothy 2:14-15)

### III. With God All things Are Possible

- A. In His own time, God acted on His impossible promise. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)
- B. The impossible hope of the ages would come to pass in Mary's life. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He 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: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:30-33)
- C. Mary understood the impossibility of the revelation. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (Luke 1:34)
- D. God indeed had in mind a humanly impossible event in mind - The Incarnation of God. And 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. (Luke 1:35)
- E. God did the impossible with Elizabeth while He was at it, perhaps for emphasis. And, 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. (Luke 1:36)

F. Here is the issue - Can God Keep His Promises? For with God nothing shall be impossible. (Luke 1:37)

G. It took time, but eventually, a young woman from Judah came up with the right way to approach God when He proposes the impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)

Be it unto me according to Thy Word.