

The Annunciation
Luke 1:26-38
December 7, 2014

Who Are These People?

- **Mary**
- **Joseph**
- **Gabriel**
- **David**
- **Jacob**
- **Elizabeth**

What's the Message? -- Fulfillment of the Promise!

- **Mary is stunned by the visit.**

Hendriksen writes:

Here Jerome's Latin version (the Vulgate) reads *gratiae plena*, full of grace, not a bad rendering unless it is wrongly interpreted as if it meant, "Mary, you are filled with grace which is at your disposal to bestow on others." The true sense is, "You are full of grace which you have received. . . you are in a unique sense a divinely favored person." The immediately following context proves that this interpretation is correct, for the angel adds, "The Lord is with you."

- **Fulfillment**

- **Miracle**

What's the Result?

- **Faith**

- **Humility**

Lenski comments:

The angel left Zacharias dumb, he leaves Mary with a full, calm, deliberate word of assent. Her final reply is so brief, yet so beautiful and spiritually quite perfect. The exclamation "lo" marks the depth of her feeling. Think to what she was consenting! "Handmaid" in the A.V. is beautiful and refined but inadequate. Mary pronounces herself "the slave-maid" of *Yahweh*. She is Jehovah's willing property for him to use as he in his covenant grace desires; she declares this of herself. The translations do well to insert no "I am."

In *genoito* we have one of the few optatives that are found in the Koine, it is here the optative of wish: "may it be to me." It is thus volitive—Mary wills that what the angel has said to her may come to pass in exact accord with the utterance that has fallen from his lips. This is holy submission, mighty confidence, blessed readiness—all this in one so

young whereas the saintly old Zacharias, while serving in the Sanctuary itself, stumbled at far less.¹

¹ R.C.H. Lenski, Interpretation of St. Luke's Gospel, Wartburg Press, 1946, p76

Home Study Guide

Monday: Luke 1 Review your sermon notes. What stands out in Gabriel's announcement to Mary? Why?

Tuesday: Daniel 9 What does this foretell? Why is it significant that Gabriel was involved in this?

Wednesday Isa 7 This prophecy has a double fulfillment. What are they? See Isa 8 for the first one.

Sunday's sermon will be "Angelic Visitation - Joseph"

Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday: Matt 1 Who was Joseph? What do you know about him? Why was the Angel sent to him?

Friday: Ps 18 In whom is David's hope for deliverance? Why? How does that hope relate to Sunday's text?

Saturday: Rom 12 Why is vengeance wrong for us? How did Joseph follow the rules against vengeance relative to Mary?

Memory: Mat. 1:21 *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Prayer Items:

Family Catechism Study

[Westminster Shorter Catechism]

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor, unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto. Gen. 9:6; Matt. 5:22; 1 John 3:15

God here forbids suicide, murder, abortion and euthanasia. Capital punishment and war are not necessarily included, but may be forbidden if pursued and executed unjustly. [See Gen. 9, 2 Sam. 11, Rom. 13, et al].

God also forbids those things, which can lead to these dire results. For instance, we are given clear instructions of how we are to speak. [See Eph. 4] To speak discouragingly to one who is already in despair could be tending toward killing our neighbor. Hatred and spewing forth hatred [See Matt. 5:21-22] qualifies for this category of sin too. We need to be careful about how we act, think and speak, because any one of these may slip into a killing path.

We often pride ourselves in not having actually taken up a weapon against someone and killing them, but this is not the entirety of the command. We are to promote the life of our neighbor, to love him, rather than skirt the edges of murder by hatred and character assassination.

Unnecessary risk and playing the dare devil is forbidden. Taking unnecessary chances just for the thrill or for the accolades of our peers and/or admirers lies outside the parameters of what God allows. Life is precious to God and he desires us to have the same view. He redeemed us in Christ so that we can promote his agenda in the world. This commandment is to be part of what we do in the world, directly in our own relationships and indirectly through activities, which promote respect for life.

1 Peter 3:10-11: For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it."

