

CHAPTER THIRTY

THE INCARNATION AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS

The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 was about to take place. A Virgin was about to become pregnant by the Holy Spirit. The first announcement regarding the birth of Jesus was in the temple. It was made to Zacharias the priest.

LUKE 1:5

5 THERE WAS IN THE DAYS OF HEROD, THE KING OF JUDAEA, A CERTAIN PRIEST NAMED ZACHARIAS, OF THE COURSE OF ABIA: AND HIS WIFE WAS OF THE DAUGHTERS OF AARON, AND HER NAME WAS ELISABETH.

LUKE 1:8-13

8 AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT WHILE HE EXECUTED THE PRIEST'S OFFICE BEFORE GOD IN THE ORDER OF HIS COURSE,

9 ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOM OF THE PRIEST'S OFFICE, HIS LOT WAS TO BURN INCENSE WHEN HE WENT INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD.

10 AND THE WHOLE MULTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE WERE PRAYING WITHOUT AT THE TIME OF INCENSE.

11 AND THERE APPEARED UNTO HIM AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STANDING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ALTAR OF INCENSE.

12 AND WHEN ZACHARIAS SAW HIM, HE WAS TROUBLED, AND FEAR FELL UPON HIM.

13 BUT THE ANGEL SAID UNTO HIM, FEAR NOT, ZACHARIAS: FOR THY PRAYER IS HEARD; AND THY WIFE ELISABETH SHALL BEAR THEE A SON, AND THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JOHN.

This announcement was linked directly with the last and greatest of the Old Testament prophecies found in Malachi.

MALACHI 4:5-6

5 BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD:

6 AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE.

It spoke first of the birth of the one who would prepare the way, the second Elijah.

He, whose forerunner this "Elijah" was to be, would be no less a person than the Lord, the God of Israel Himself.

LUKE 1:16-17

16 AND MANY OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SHALL HE TURN TO THE LORD THEIR GOD.

17 AND HE SHALL GO BEFORE HIM IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIAS, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE DISOBEDIENT TO THE WISDOM OF THE JUST; TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD.

Zacharias asked for a sign. As a result he was made a deaf mute until the birth of the baby. Since he had not accepted this announcement as fact by faith, it was a good thing for him to remain mute until John was born. Otherwise, the power of his doubt-filled words and those of the people around him, would probably have hindered the plan of God. It was this coming Lord and God that Malachi had viewed in spirit and had named "the Lord of hosts (Jehovah Zebaoth), who shall come unawares to His temple."

MALACHI 3:1

3:1 BEHOLD, I WILL SEND MY MESSENGER, AND HE SHALL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME: AND THE LORD, WHOM YE SEEK, SHALL SUDDENLY COME TO HIS TEMPLE, EVEN THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT, WHOM YE DELIGHT IN: BEHOLD, HE SHALL COME, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS.

How appropriate it was, therefore, that the imminent fulfillment of this prophetic message was announced in a temple and to a priest.

The second proclamation was made to Mary, the pious virgin of David's house.

LUKE 1:26-55

26 AND IN THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD UNTO A CITY OF GALILEE, NAMED NAZARETH,

27 TO A VIRGIN ESPOUSED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID; AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY.

28 AND THE ANGEL CAME IN UNTO HER, AND SAID, HAIL, THOU THAT ART HIGHLY FAVOURED, THE LORD IS WITH THEE: BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN.

29 AND WHEN SHE SAW HIM, SHE WAS TROUBLED AT HIS SAYING, AND CAST IN HER MIND WHAT MANNER OF SALUTATION THIS SHOULD BE.

30 AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO HER, FEAR NOT, MARY: FOR THOU HAST FOUND FAVOUR WITH GOD.

31 AND, BEHOLD, THOU SHALT CONCEIVE IN THY WOMB, AND BRING FORTH A SON, AND SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS.

32 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:

33 AND HE SHALL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOR EVER; AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE SHALL BE NO END.

34 THEN SAID MARY UNTO THE ANGEL, HOW SHALL THIS BE, SEEING I KNOW NOT A MAN?

35 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.

36 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.

37 FOR WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

38 AND MARY SAID, BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD; BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD. AND THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER.

39 AND MARY AROSE IN THOSE DAYS, AND WENT INTO THE HILL COUNTRY WITH HASTE, INTO A CITY OF JUDA;

40 AND ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE OF ZACHARIAS, AND SALUTED ELISABETH.

41 AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT, WHEN ELISABETH HEARD THE SALUTATION OF MARY, THE BABE LEAPED IN HER WOMB; AND ELISABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST:

42 AND SHE SPAKE OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, AND SAID, BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB.

43 AND WHENCE IS THIS TO ME, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD SHOULD COME TO ME?

44 FOR, LO, AS SOON AS THE VOICE OF THY SALUTATION SOUNDED IN MINE EARS, THE BABE LEAPED IN MY WOMB FOR JOY.

45 AND BLESSED IS SHE THAT BELIEVED: FOR THERE SHALL BE A PERFORMANCE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD HER FROM THE LORD.

46 AND MARY SAID, MY SOUL DOTHT MAGNIFY THE LORD,

47 AND MY SPIRIT HATH REJOICED IN GOD MY SAVIOUR.

48 FOR HE HATH REGARDED THE LOW ESTATE OF HIS HANDMAIDEN: FOR, BEHOLD, FROM HENCEFORTH ALL GENERATIONS SHALL CALL ME BLESSED.

49 FOR HE THAT IS MIGHTY HATH DONE TO ME GREAT THINGS; AND HOLY IS HIS NAME.

50 AND HIS MERCY IS ON THEM THAT FEAR HIM FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

51 HE HATH SHEWED STRENGTH WITH HIS ARM; HE HATH SCATTERED THE PROUD IN THE IMAGINATION OF THEIR HEARTS.

52 HE HATH PUT DOWN THE MIGHTY FROM THEIR SEATS, AND EXALTED THEM OF LOW DEGREE.

53 HE HATH FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; AND THE RICH HE HATH SENT EMPTY AWAY.

54 HE HATH HOLPEN HIS SERVANT ISRAEL, IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MERCY;

55 AS HE SPAKE TO OUR FATHERS, TO ABRAHAM, AND TO HIS SEED FOR EVER.

Beginning with the Davidic promises given to David himself by Nathan the prophet, the Messiah was described as the Son of God and the Son of David.

1 CHRONICLES 17:11-14

11 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, WHEN THY DAYS BE EXPIRED THAT THOU MUST GO TO BE WITH THY FATHERS, THAT I WILL RAISE UP THY SEED AFTER THEE, WHICH SHALL BE OF THY SONS; AND I WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM.

12 HE SHALL BUILD ME AN HOUSE, AND I WILL STABLISH HIS THRONE FOR EVER.

13 I WILL BE HIS FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE MY SON: AND I WILL NOT TAKE MY MERCY AWAY FROM HIM, AS I TOOK IT FROM HIM THAT WAS BEFORE THEE:

14 BUT I WILL SETTLE HIM IN MINE HOUSE AND IN MY KINGDOM FOR EVER: AND HIS THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVERMORE.

LUKE 1:32

32 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:

Unlike Zacharias, Mary readily accepted the same angel's announcement to her concerning a child she would birth. Her question was not whether or not it would happen, but how would it happen since she was unmarried and a virgin. She did want to know how it could be since she had never been intimate with a man.

Perhaps you, too, have wondered how this could happen. Without question, it was a miracle and here is how it happened. The Holy Spirit supernaturally moved upon the Virgin Mary. He was the cause of what was conceived in the womb of this virgin. No human male had anything to do with this conception.

Look again at Genesis 3:15.

GENESIS 3:15

15 AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.

AND I WILL (PUT, PLACE, APPLY, APPOINT, BRING, LAY UP) (ENMITY, HOSTILITY, HATRED) (BETWEEN, WITHIN) THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND (BETWEEN, WITHIN) THY (SEED, FRUIT, PLANT, SOWING-TIME, POSTERITY) AND HER (SEED, FRUIT, PLANT, SOWING-TIME, POSTERITY); (IT, HE, THE SAME, THIS OR THAT, WHO) SHALL (BRUISE, OVERWHELM, BREAK, COVER) THY (HEAD, BAND, BEGINNING, CAPTAIN, CHIEF, PLACE, MAN, THINGS, COMPANY, END, EXCELLENCE, FIRST, FOREFRONT, HIGHEST PART, PRIEST,

PRINCIPAL, RULER, SUM, TOP) AND THOU SHALT (BRUISE, OVERWHELM, BREAK, COVER) HIS (HEEL, TRACK, LAST, FOOTSTEP).

Notice that this verse says that satan's head would be bruised by the Seed of woman. Biologically, women do not have the seed—only the male sperm supplies the seed. So, this verse declares that God would miraculously place the Seed in the woman. This was brought out again in Gen. 24.

GENESIS 24:60

60 AND THEY BLESSED REBEKAH, AND SAID UNTO HER, THOU ART OUR SISTER, BE THOU THE MOTHER OF THOUSANDS OF MILLIONS, AND LET THY SEED POSSESS THE GATE OF THOSE WHICH HATE THEM.

Now look at the Gospel of Luke.

LUKE 8:11

11 NOW THE PARABLE IS THIS: THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD.

The seed is the Word and the Word is the seed. By getting the Word into the chosen virgin, God would have the seed in her.

JOHN 1:1-4

1:1 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

2 THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD.

3 ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANY THING MADE THAT WAS MADE.

4 IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.

These verses tell us that the Second Person of the Godhead is the Word. By getting the Word, that is, the seed in Mary, God would have Jesus, the Second Person of the Godhead within her.

Let's see how this was accomplished.

LUKE 1:26-35

26 AND IN THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD UNTO A CITY OF GALILEE, NAMED NAZARETH,

27 TO A VIRGIN ESPOUSED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID; AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY.

28 AND THE ANGEL CAME IN UNTO HER, AND SAID, HAIL, THOU THAT ART HIGHLY FAVOURED, THE LORD IS WITH THEE: BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN.

29 AND WHEN SHE SAW HIM, SHE WAS TROUBLED AT HIS SAYING, AND CAST IN HER MIND WHAT MANNER OF SALUTATION THIS SHOULD BE.

30 AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO HER, FEAR NOT, MARY: FOR THOU HAST FOUND FAVOUR WITH GOD.

31 AND, BEHOLD, THOU SHALT CONCEIVE IN THY WOMB, AND BRING FORTH A SON, AND SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS.

32 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:

33 AND HE SHALL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOR EVER; AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE SHALL BE NO END.

34 THEN SAID MARY UNTO THE ANGEL, HOW SHALL THIS BE, SEEING I KNOW NOT A MAN?

35 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 1:38

38 AND MARY SAID, BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD; BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD. AND THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER.

Mary had just received the Word of God. Jesus had just been conceived within her by the Holy Ghost. He made the Word of God alive within Mary. Thus, Genesis 3:15 had become a reality.

Now look at Isaiah.

ISAIAH 55:10-11

10 FOR AS THE RAIN COMETH DOWN, AND THE SNOW FROM HEAVEN, AND RETURNETH NOT THITHER, BUT WATERETH THE EARTH, AND MAKETH IT BRING FORTH AND BUD, THAT IT MAY GIVE SEED TO THE SOWER, AND BREAD TO THE EATER:

11 SO SHALL MY WORD BE THAT GOETH FORTH OUT OF MY MOUTH: IT SHALL NOT RETURN UNTO ME VOID, BUT IT SHALL ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH I PLEASE, AND IT SHALL PROSPER IN THE THING WHERE TO I SENT IT.

Once God's Word is within us, it will accomplish through us the will of God. In Mary's case, and only in this case, the Word of God was sent to become a baby inside a virgin. For you and me, the Word of God in us will accomplish whatever He desires. So now you know how a Virgin was able to become pregnant.

Joseph was also informed about Mary's pregnancy.

MATTHEW 1:18-20

18 NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS ON THIS WISE: WHEN AS HIS MOTHER MARY WAS ESPOUSED TO JOSEPH, BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER, SHE WAS FOUND WITH CHILD OF THE HOLY GHOST.

**19 THEN JOSEPH HER HUSBAND, BEING A JUST MAN, AND NOT WILLING TO MAKE HER A PUBLICK EXAMPLE, WAS MINDED TO PUT HER AWAY PRIVILY.
20 BUT WHILE HE THOUGHT ON THESE THINGS, 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.**

Despite Joseph's Davidic descent he came into the story not as father, but only to be the foster-father. His job was to only to believe. He was to be a penitent Israelite appointed to receive the Redeemer into his house. Joseph was to portray personally Israel's reception of the Redeemer.

ISAIAH 7:14

14 THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL.

MATTHEW 1:21-25

21 AND SHE SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS: FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

22 NOW 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.

24 THEN JOSEPH BEING RAISED FROM SLEEP DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD HAD BIDDEN HIM, AND TOOK UNTO HIM HIS WIFE:

25 AND KNEW HER NOT TILL SHE HAD BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON: AND HE CALLED HIS NAME JESUS.

Christ did not become Redeemer in order to be the Son of God and Son of David, but He appeared as the Son of God and the Son of David in order to be the Redeemer. This announcement to Joseph declared that Mary's baby was to be the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed One.

LUKE 1:39-45

39 AND MARY AROSE IN THOSE DAYS, AND WENT INTO THE HILL COUNTRY WITH HASTE, INTO A CITY OF JUDA;

40 AND ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE OF ZACHARIAS, AND SALUTED ELISABETH.

41 AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT, WHEN ELISABETH HEARD THE SALUTATION OF MARY, THE BABE LEAPED IN HER WOMB; AND ELISABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST:

42 AND SHE SPAKE OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, AND SAID, BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB.

43 AND WHENCE IS THIS TO ME, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD SHOULD COME TO ME?

44 FOR, LO, AS SOON AS THE VOICE OF THY SALUTATION SOUNDED IN MINE EARS, THE BABE LEAPED IN MY WOMB FOR JOY.

45 AND BLESSED IS SHE THAT BELIEVED: FOR THERE SHALL BE A PERFORMANCE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD HER FROM THE LORD.

These verses tell us that Mary needed to share the good news with someone. Society was not accepting to an unmarried pregnant woman. In fact, such a woman was to be stoned to death. For Mary to go to Elizabeth's was very dangerous. You see, Zacharias, the priest, was Elizabeth's husband. It was his duty to see that unmarried pregnant women were stoned. Mary knew that since Elizabeth had a miraculous pregnancy, she would forbid Zacharias harming her even if he wanted to. Instead of being afraid, Mary, like most pregnant women, was filled with joy.

LUKE 1:46-56

46 AND MARY SAID, MY SOUL DOTHS MAGNIFY THE LORD,

47 AND MY SPIRIT HATH REJOICED IN GOD MY SAVIOUR.

48 FOR HE HATH REGARDED THE LOW ESTATE OF HIS HANDMAIDEN: FOR, BEHOLD, FROM HENCEFORTH ALL GENERATIONS SHALL CALL ME BLESSED.

49 FOR HE THAT IS MIGHTY HATH DONE TO ME GREAT THINGS; AND HOLY IS HIS NAME.

50 AND HIS MERCY IS ON THEM THAT FEAR HIM FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

51 HE HATH SHEWED STRENGTH WITH HIS ARM; HE HATH SCATTERED THE PROUD IN THE IMAGINATION OF THEIR HEARTS.

52 HE HATH PUT DOWN THE MIGHTY FROM THEIR SEATS, AND EXALTED THEM OF LOW DEGREE.

53 HE HATH FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; AND THE RICH HE HATH SENT EMPTY AWAY.

54 HE HATH HOLPEN HIS SERVANT ISRAEL, IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MERCY;

55 AS HE SPAKE TO OUR FATHERS, TO ABRAHAM, AND TO HIS SEED FOR EVER.

56 AND MARY ABODE WITH HER ABOUT THREE MONTHS, AND RETURNED TO HER OWN HOUSE.

Mary carried this baby for nine months, just like any other human baby. The baby went through all the different stages of development. An actual, living human baby was developing a physical body. Now, I'm sure, everyone already knew that the Son of God did not have a body until He developed the human body inside His mother, Mary. It would be the body in which the very Son of God would live, minister, and make the ultimate sacrifice. It would also be the body that would be raised from the dead in a glorified form.

Now let's look at some Scripture references regarding the physical body of Jesus, even though we have not yet studied about His birth here on earth.

MATTHEW 26:26

26 AND AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND BLESSED IT, AND BRAKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLES, AND SAID, TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY.

MATTHEW 26:28

28 FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

MATTHEW 26:38

38 THEN SAITH HE UNTO THEM, MY SOUL IS EXCEEDING SORROWFUL, EVEN UNTO DEATH: TARRY YE HERE, AND WATCH WITH ME.

LUKE 23:46

46 AND WHEN JESUS HAD CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, HE SAID, FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT: AND HAVING SAID THUS, HE GAVE UP THE GHOST.

LUKE 24:39

39 BEHOLD MY HANDS AND MY FEET, THAT IT IS I MYSELF: HANDLE ME, AND SEE; FOR A SPIRIT HATH NOT FLESH AND BONES, AS YE SEE ME HAVE.

JOHN 11:33

33 WHEN JESUS THEREFORE SAW HER WEEPING, AND THE JEWS ALSO WEEPING WHICH CAME WITH HER, HE GROANED IN THE SPIRIT, AND WAS TROUBLED,

HEBREWS 2:14

14 FORASMUCH THEN AS THE CHILDREN ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD, HE ALSO HIMSELF LIKEWISE TOOK PART OF THE SAME; THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;

HEBREWS 10:5

5 WHEREFORE WHEN HE COMETH INTO THE WORLD, HE SAITH, SACRIFICE AND OFFERING THOU Wouldest NOT, BUT A BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME:

ACTS 2:30

30 THEREFORE BEING A PROPHET, AND KNOWING THAT GOD HAD SWORN WITH AN OATH TO HIM, THAT OF THE FRUIT OF HIS LOINS, ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, HE WOULD RAISE UP CHRIST TO SIT ON HIS THRONE;

ROMANS 8:3

3 FOR WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO, IN THAT IT WAS WEAK THROUGH THE FLESH, GOD SENDING HIS OWN SON IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH, AND FOR SIN, CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH:

PHILIPPIANS 2:7

7 BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, AND TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT, AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN:

This baby that Mary was now carrying, whom we know to be the Son of God, would also be called the Son of man. Jesus referred to Himself by this title over 40 times. It seems that this was one of His favorite titles, possibly the one He like best. We are not sure why He liked this name unless it was because it helped to veil His Messiahship. After all, He was here to live as a man and not God.

The Gospel of John explains the birth of Jesus this way.

JOHN 1:9-14

9 THAT WAS THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH LIGHTETH EVERY MAN THAT COMETH INTO THE WORLD.

10 HE WAS IN THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD WAS MADE BY HIM, AND THE WORLD KNEW HIM NOT.

11 HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT.

12 BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, EVEN TO THEM THAT BELIEVE ON HIS NAME:

13 WHICH WERE BORN, NOT OF BLOOD, NOR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH, NOR OF THE WILL OF MAN, BUT OF GOD.

14 AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

Look how the Amplified Version translates the fourteenth verse.

(AND, EVEN SO THEN) THE (WORD, SOMETHING SAID INCLUDING THE THOUGHT, THE REASONING AND THE MOTIVE, DIVINE EXPRESSION) WAS (MADE, CAUSED TO BECOME, ORDAINED TO BE) (FLESH, THE HUMAN BODY AND NATURE WITH ALL ITS PHYSICAL, MORAL, PASSIONS), AND (DWELT, TO TENT OR BE ENCAMPED, TO OCCUPY TO PROVIDE PROTECTION AND COMMUNION) (AMONG, IN, IN A FIXED POSITION IN PLACE, TIME, AND STATE WHICH PRODUCES A RELATION OF REST, TO GIVE WHOLLY TO, MIGHTILY TO) US, AND WE (BEHELD, TO LOOK CLOSELY AT, TO PERCEIVE, TO LOOK UPON) HIS (GLORY, DIGNITY, HONOR, PRAISE), THE (GLORY, DIGNITY, HONOR, PRAISE) AS OF THE (ONLY BEGOTTEN, SOLE) OF THE FATHER, (FULL, REplete, COVERED OVER, COMPLETE) OF (GRACE, UNMERITED FAVOR, DIVINE INFLUENCE UPON THE HEART AND ITS REFLECTION IN THE LIFE OF

THE INDIVIDUAL, THE ABILITY TO DO THINGS SUPERNATURALLY) AND TRUTH.)

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

16 AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN OF ANGELS, PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES, BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY.

He was the mystery of godliness—God manifest in the flesh.

1 JOHN 4:2

2 HEREBY KNOW YE THE SPIRIT OF GOD: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD:

Remember, the word *flesh* denotes the human nature, as well as the human body. He was more than God living in a human body. Through a miracle, He was the Word who had actually become human in every way. He was a spirit that has a soul, will, mind, intellect and lived in a body.

Now, let's see what happened when Zacharias and Elizabeth's baby was born. When asked what his name should be, Zacharias wrote John. Immediately he was able to speak again. He then praised God and filled with the Holy Ghost.

LUKE 1:57-79

57 NOW ELISABETH'S FULL TIME CAME THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED; AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH A SON.

58 AND HER NEIGHBOURS AND HER COUSINS HEARD HOW THE LORD HAD SHEWED GREAT MERCY UPON HER; AND THEY REJOICED WITH HER.

59 AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT ON THE EIGHTH DAY THEY CAME TO CIRCUMCISE THE CHILD; AND THEY CALLED HIM ZACHARIAS, AFTER THE NAME OF HIS FATHER.

60 AND HIS MOTHER ANSWERED AND SAID, NOT SO; BUT HE SHALL BE CALLED JOHN.

61 AND THEY SAID UNTO HER, THERE IS NONE OF THY KINDRED THAT IS CALLED BY THIS NAME.

62 AND THEY MADE SIGNS TO HIS FATHER, HOW HE WOULD HAVE HIM CALLED.

63 AND HE ASKED FOR A WRITING TABLE, AND WROTE, SAYING, HIS NAME IS JOHN. AND THEY MARVELLED ALL.

64 AND HIS MOUTH WAS OPENED IMMEDIATELY, AND HIS TONGUE LOOSED, AND HE SPAKE, AND PRAISED GOD.

65 AND FEAR CAME ON ALL THAT DWELT ROUND ABOUT THEM: AND ALL THESE SAYINGS WERE NOISED ABROAD THROUGHOUT ALL THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDAEA.

66 AND ALL THEY THAT HEARD THEM LAID THEM UP IN THEIR HEARTS, SAYING, WHAT MANNER OF CHILD SHALL THIS BE! AND THE HAND OF THE LORD WAS WITH HIM.

67 AND HIS FATHER ZACHARIAS WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND PROPHESED, SAYING,

68 BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL; FOR HE HATH VISITED AND REDEEMED HIS PEOPLE,

69 AND HATH RAISED UP AN HORN OF SALVATION FOR US IN THE HOUSE OF HIS SERVANT DAVID;

70 AS HE SPAKE BY THE MOUTH OF HIS HOLY PROPHETS, WHICH HAVE BEEN SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN:

71 THAT WE SHOULD BE SAVED FROM OUR ENEMIES, AND FROM THE HAND OF ALL THAT HATE US;

72 TO PERFORM THE MERCY PROMISED TO OUR FATHERS, AND TO REMEMBER HIS HOLY COVENANT;

73 THE OATH WHICH HE SWARE TO OUR FATHER ABRAHAM,

74 THAT HE WOULD GRANT UNTO US, THAT WE BEING DELIVERED OUT OF THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES MIGHT SERVE HIM WITHOUT FEAR,

75 IN HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE HIM, ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIFE.

76 AND THOU, CHILD, SHALT BE CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE HIGHEST: FOR THOU SHALT GO BEFORE THE FACE OF THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS;

77 TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION UNTO HIS PEOPLE BY THE REMISSION OF THEIR SINS,

78 THROUGH THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD; WHEREBY THE DAYSPRING FROM ON HIGH HATH VISITED US,

79 TO GIVE LIGHT TO THEM THAT SIT IN DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE.

Zacharias was stating that the covenant made with Abraham was about to be completely established. A descendent of David was to bring salvation to Israel. Deliverance was at hand. Zacharias continued the prophecy by saying that his son, John, would be the forerunner of the Redeemer. He would prepare the way for Christ. He would inform the people of the means for the remission of their sins.

When the nine months were up, Mary gave birth to this baby.