

# Prayer Update 1052

Wednesday 15 December 2021

**This Prayer Update will be the last until about 19 January**

**God's Word for this week ...** Luke 1:26-38

(Also see Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2-5a; Matthew 1:20-25 and 2:1-6)

## The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. He came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Praise, worship, and thank God for ...

Sending His only Son into this needy, sinful world, to rescue us from the penalty of sin (namely, eternal separation from the Holy God); to show us the way to live a life which is pleasing to God (namely, His ways); to give us a future and a hope; to prepare us for eternal life with Him – all revealed in God's **New Covenant**, often called the 'New Testament'.

*Praise God we live on **this side of Jesus' coming** – not **before His coming**, but **after!***

## Pray for ...

- All Christians, and outreaches, to share the Good News – God's News – of salvation and eternal life through the Lord Jesus, our Messiah and Saviour.
- Not just for a **better world**, but for **better people** so that we will have a better world too! Jesus changes lives when people put their faith in Him, are born again, follow His ways.
  - > Those people who find this time of the year to be a very lonely time.
  - > People missing friends or family members who cannot be here in NZ at this time.
  - > Safety in travel by road, on the water, in the air.
  - > Organisations, churches, and other groups giving out food or presents to those in need; organise Christmas lunches, and so on.
  - > Christmas time in poorer nations; where there are dangerous situations in their country; including those people who are persecuted for their faith in Christ.
  - > New Year, and all that this may bring to our families, country and world.
  - > People being able to, from 15 December (today) until 17 January, move freely around the country without covid border restrictions. Pray that this will not increase the number of new serious cases of covid.

*"Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of His glory with rejoicing; to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."* [Jude 1:24-25]