

Rediscovering Wonder

Luke 1: 26-40 & Matthew 1:18-24

There is wonder in God's [awareness of us](#).

📖 Luke 1:26–30 (NIV) “In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.”

There is wonder in God's [detailed plan](#).

📖 Luke 1:31–34 (NIV) “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. ³² He 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, ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.” ³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

📖 Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.”

📖 Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

📖 Micah 5:2 (NIV) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

📖 Galatians 4:4–5 (NLT) But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children.”

📖 Ephesians 1:11 (NLT) “...He makes everything work out according to His plan.”

There is wonder in God's [ability to do anything](#).

📖 Luke 1:34–37 (NIV) “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.”

📖 Luke 1:25 (NIV) “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days He has shown His favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

📖 Luke 1:38–45 (NIV) “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her. ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”

There is wonder in God's [way of reversing things](#).

 *Matthew 1:18–19 (NIV) “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”*

 *Matthew 1:20–24 (NIV) “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.”*

For most of us, Wonder is a brand of bread that we are told to avoid. Wonder is not something adults have much of anymore. What has stolen your sense of wonder? Does knowing that God is mindful of you fill you with wonder? Does knowing that God has a plan, and it involves you, fill you with wonder? Do you wonder if God can change things? What does God want to do in your family this Christmas?

