

Luke 1:26-38

The Greatness of the Promised

The temptation we face in all scriptural interpretation is to focus on the wrong things, to major on the minors. Some passages are more fraught with this danger than others, this particular passage may be the most violated on this point of all, for the hero of this passage is NOT Mary; no, the hero of this passage is the promised child. We want to focus on the wrong part because there IS a compelling sub-plot, but we must never be guilty of ignoring the main point and exalting the minor. It is particularly offensive to God, when our misinterpretations obscure, alter or worse, deny the central truth of His message.

I. TEMPTING SUB-PLOTS

- a. Focus on the announcer - Gabriel the angel of both enunciations. His name means "the Power of God"
- b. Focus on the circumstances –

- i. the timing of the baby with Elizabeth's baby.
- ii. The crisis Mary faced in her betrothal
- iii. The shame she would feel if she allowed people to think what they would
- iv. The ridicule she would face if she told the truth
- v. The fact that both she and Joseph are of the house of David

c. Focus on the recipient - this is the most common abuse of this passage

- i. Mary is not the mother of God
- ii. She is not the queen of heaven
- iii. She is a scared Jewish teenager, of good character whom God has chosen to be the vessel of His incarnation.
- iv. She is fully human woman in need of a savior herself. She is sinful, she is fallen, she is just like us.
- v. She is NOT and will NEVER be co-redemptress, co-mediatrix, co-intercestrix... she will never be co-anything with Jesus. He ALONE is the savior, He ALONE did the work of saving us, He ALONE

wears the crown and He ALONE makes the only way to the Father!!

II. THE GREAT DELIVERER

Here is the heart of the passage

- a. He will save, His name means God Saves
- b. God has long promised this salvation - since the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3.15

- c. This salvation is not from Rome, but from the bondage of sin

Matthew 1.21-22

- d. The nation of Israel exists to prepare this One

Genesis 12.1-3

III. HE WILL BE GREAT - HE IS GREAT

a. In the perfection of His Nature

i. Human

1John 4.2-3

ii. Divine

Isaiah 9.6-7

iii. The perfect God- Man –

John 1.14

b. In the majesty of His roles and offices

i. Prophet

John 14.23-24

ii. Priest –

John 16.23-24
1Timothy 2.5-6

iii. King

1Timothy 1.17

iv. Savior

John 4.42
Acts 5.29-32

v. Sacrifice

John 10.15-18

vi. Head –

Romans 5.14-19

vii. Second Adam

viii. Substitute –

Romans 5.6-11

ix. Friend –

Proverbs 18.24

x. Life

xi. All

c. In the wonder of His accomplishments

i. He finished the work

ii. He conquered

1. Sin

2. Death

3. Hell

iii. He endured the wrath of God and emerged unscathed

Isaiah 53

iv. He liberated His people and lost not one

John 17.12

- v. He has now sat down at the right hand of the Father

Acts 2.29-33

IV. HE DOES GREAT DEEDS

- a. The ruin and destruction of His people was great indeed
- b. He came to give great mercy and pardon
- c. He gives tremendous supply to all our needs
- d. He takes us to a great home
 - i. Great peace
 - ii. Great rest
 - iii. Great revelation
 - iv. Great joy
 - v. Great GLORY!

V. HE ESTABLISHES A GREAT KINGDOM

a. Never ending

b. The restoration of all God's perfect creation

Revelation 21.1-8

c. The destruction of all evil

d. The eternal reign of His righteousness