

## Jesus Christ The Great One

### Luke 1:26-38

#### Introduction

I recently heard someone on the radio announce that people want to hear more about Jesus at Christmas time! According to the Dennison Forum 79% of Americans surveyed want a greater emphasis on Jesus. Only 18 percent disagree. When asked if "Christmas activities should include a visit to a church service," 63 percent agree. Further, 70 percent of Americans say Christmas would be better with a Christian focus (see [dennisonforum.org](http://dennisonforum.org)).

It shouldn't come as a shock that even people who do not describe themselves as religious or Christians want to hear about Jesus at Christmas time. Do you know people who have come to see the holidays as synthetic, superficial, phony meaningless? Chuck Swindoll wrote; "Christmas comes each year to draw people in from the cold. Like tiny frightened sparrows, shivering in the winter cold, many live their lives on the barren branches of heartbreak, disappointment, and loneliness, lost in thoughts of shame, self-pity, guilt, or failure. . . One blustery day follows another, and the only company they keep is with fellow—strugglers who land on the same branches confused and unprotected. We try so hard to attract them into the warmth. Week after week church bells ring. Choirs sing. Preachers preach. Lighted churches send out their beacon. But nothing seems to bring in those who need warmth the most" (*The Finishing Touch*).

Our passage begins with a message from heaven (vv.29-33). The message is filled with assurance and comfort. The assurance and comfort continues with an announcement—Mary will give birth to Jesus—the Messiah whose Kingdom and reign will never end. Since the beginning of time women have given birth in every generation. The birth announcement prompts a response from the young girl; she is a virgin. The angel's message includes a description of the method—God will employ—the Holy Spirit will overshadow her and a miracle will take place. The passage begins with a salutation and ends with a declaration of submission; "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept what he wants" (v.38).

#### A Great Message (vv.29-33)

*Luke 1:26–38 (NKJV) 26Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,*

*27to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

*28And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"*

*29But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.*

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*30Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

*31And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*

*32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.*

The Angel’s message contains seven imperatives; or seven things that must happen or must come to pass:

The commands include:

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|------------------------|--|
| 1. The Incarnation:    | You will conceive (v.31)                             |
| 2. The Designation:    | You shall call His name Jesus (v.31)                 |
| 3. The Exaltation:     | He shall be Great (v.32)                             |
| 3. The Determination:  | He shall be called the Son of the Highest (v.32)     |
| 4. The Identification: | The Lord God gives Him the throne of David (v.32)    |
| 5. The Dominion:       | He shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever (v.33) |
| 6. The Continuation:   | Of His Kingdom there shall be no end                 |

*33And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

**A Great Mystery (vv.34-35)**

*34Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”*

*35And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

The birth is no ordinary birth.

Alfred Korzybski wrote; “There are two ways to slide easily through life: Namely to believe everything, or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.”

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**A Great Miracle (vv.36-38)**

*36Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.*

*37For with God nothing will be impossible.”*

*38Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.*

**Conclusion**