

Title: THE PROMISE TO DAVID FULFILLED, LUKE 1:26 – 38
(Chatham, NJ; 12/18/11, AM) [E – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: At the announcement of Christ's conception the angel Gabriel pronounced that the child about to be conceived was the long-awaited king who was to assume the throne of David.

Purpose: To demonstrate that the fulfillment of the Davidic promises completed the mission of establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Introduction:

1. The great event unfolding at the announcement of Christ's conception was that God intervened in history; he had done so through the Exodus, but now he has fulfilled the promises given to David and to Israel.
2. We have spoken of the personal stories involved, of the experiences of individuals.
3. Other personal episodes abound in the events of Christ's birth: Joseph's distress over Mary's alleged adultery (Mt. 1), the trip to Bethlehem, the shepherds in the field, and the escape to Egypt.
4. The big picture is that the eternal King promised to David is about to arrive. As in the Exodus from Egypt God intervened in history.

I. Promises to David, Announcement to Mary, Luke 1:26-38

- A. A king will come from the house of David, 2 Samuel 7
 1. In a world dominated by those who seek power another king is a threat, Psalm 2.
 2. Herod illustrates the world's reaction to a new authority.
 3. (comment on "Why the Heck" article) Might this be the deep-seated reason why the world cannot tolerate Tim Tebow? They are threatened by what he represents.
 4. The world, like Herod, has a knee-jerk hatred for Jesus Christ and all his followers because he is a legitimate threat (remember the demons)
- B. The throne of David
 1. God will give the child the throne of David, Luke 1:32
 2. Mary was betrothed to a man from David's house, 28
 3. Though 2 Samuel 7 refers to David's immediate offspring, King Solomon, the prophets recognized the enduring nature of the promise and the hope of another
 4. Jesus later assumed the throne and sat down at the right hand of God, 1 Pet. 3:22; he has all authority in heaven and earth
- C. Reign over the house of Jacob forever, Luke 1:33 & 2 Samuel 7:16
 1. The forever connection
 2. No human king could conceive of such a thing
 3. A Kingdom that will have no end, Luke 1:33 & 2 Sam. 7:13
 4. Daniel 2:44 reveals that this Kingdom will not only obliterate all others but it will stand forever

II. The Identity of the Child conceived in Mary

- A. Call him Jesus, Luke 1:31
 1. Joseph receives a similar message, Mt. 1, in a dream
 2. The angel tells him that "he will save his people from their sins."
 3. Jesus is the anglicized name of Joshua which means "one who saves"
 4. His name reminds us of the significance of his life: he is a savior
- B. A Son, 32
 1. "Great," as John was called in 1:15

2. "Called," an idiom meaning "will be recognized to be"
3. "Son of the Most High," 32, a designation for the Messiah (Ps. 2:7)
4. In Jewish thought, it referred to an adoption or election to a special relationship with God
5. Only later would we realize that it meant much more
6. Romans 1:3-4 contrasts being a descendant from David according to the flesh and being recognized to be (declared, as above) the Son of God by the H. S.

C. Son of God, vs. 35

1. The Holy Spirit was the means of his conception (also in Mt. 1:20)
2. He will be "holy," a distinct characteristic of God
3. "Son of God," similar to vs. 32
4. God suggested who he really was by calling the child "Immanuel" (Mt. 1:23)
5. Although the Jews would have seen this only in a symbolic sense, we find out later it was literal

Conclusion:

1. His true identity could have been known to or guessed at by Mary at the time.
2. Assuredly she understood the Messianic expectations of Israel and must have understood the privilege of participating in it. Through her God was bringing about a fulfillment of their hopes and dreams.
3. But the profound nature of who he was goes beyond human categories and imagination.
4. His birth and life were more profound than the motif of "humble peasant of humble origins, born in a humble way, revealed to humble shepherds rises to become king."
5. God became a human being! Words fail to fully express such a momentous event.
6. Whereas pagan gods showed no such love and compassion for humanity, He intervened in history to save people from destruction and judgment.
7. It is gift-giving at its finest.
8. It is no wonder that the Christmas story has had such a profound effect on human history.
9. Receive the gift. Believe it. Live it.