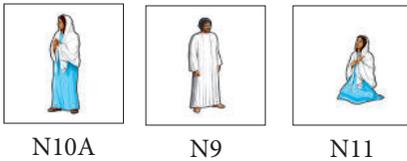


Story 1. God Announces the Birth of His Son
 Luke 1:26-38



Figures (in order used)



Backgrounds/Overlays (For scene one/in order used)



There are a few times in the Bible God announced the birth of a child to the parents even before the child was conceived. One of those times is mentioned in this story.

It seems amazing that God would choose to share this intimate conversation with us. It was a private conversation between Mary, a virgin girl in a small town in Galilee, and a powerful angel named Gabriel. We meet Gabriel for the first time in the book of Daniel when God sends him to help Daniel understand two different prophetic visions.

This story contains not only the announcement of the virgin birth of Jesus, but also specific details of the miraculous conception; both of which fulfill prophecy. The first hint of his virgin birth occurred in Genesis 3:15 when God declared that the ‘seed of the woman’ would crush the serpent’s head. Later God gave a more specific prophecy to Isaiah in 7:14 saying, “Behold a virgin shall conceive and give birth to a Son and shall call him Emmanuel, meaning ‘God with us.’”

Jesus’ virgin birth was critical as He received His human body through his mother, but He kept His divine sinless nature because God was His Father. The sinful nature passes from the father to the child. This unique conception resulted in Jesus’ ‘incarnation’ meaning ‘wrapped in flesh.’

Jesus’ legal lineage through Joseph was also critical to fulfilling prophecy. In fact, Gabriel quotes some of the very words God spoke to King David, “Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” This prophecy found in 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17 is commonly referred to as the Davidic Covenant.

Very little is known about the lineage of Mary. However, it is interesting to note that she was a close relative of Elizabeth and Zachariah, both of whom were direct descendants of Aaron, the brother of Moses, from the priestly tribe of Levi. Keep these things in your mind as this incredible story begins.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph.  Joseph was a descendant of King David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

 When Gabriel came to her he said, "Greetings, you who are loved of the Lord! The Lord is with you!" But what the angel said troubled Mary greatly and she tried to understand what he could possibly mean by such a greeting.

But Gabriel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for God is extremely pleased with you. Listen carefully, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son. You shall give him the name, Jesus!

The child will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom shall never end."

And Mary replied to the angel, "How will this be possible, since I am still a virgin?"

And Gabriel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High God will overshadow you. Therefore the child who is to be born will be called holy--the son of God!

Listen, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son, in her old age! In fact, this is the sixth month with her who people called 'barren.' For with God--nothing is impossible!" **(Remove)**  **(Replace with)** 

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the Lord's servant. Let all of this happen to me just as you have said."

(Remove)  And when Gabriel finished speaking with Mary, he left.