

# REJOICING IN GOD

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, December 8, 2024; Steve Thiel

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The O.T. is filled with signs that a Messiah is coming who is the King of Kings. These signs identify Jesus as that King, who came on a mission to save His people from their sins. That is the ultimate hope that we have this Christmas season.

## **I. Hope Announced – Read Luke 1:26-33**

- A. What are your thoughts regarding God sending the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to declare this specific message to Mary? How is Gabriel a messenger of hope?
- B. With regard to the angel's message in verses 31-33, what statements does he make about the Promised Son? Can you think of any O.T. passages that are being fulfilled in these promises? Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16. What promises are fulfilled ultimately in the Lord Jesus Christ?
- C. As you consider the details given about Mary, how would you describe her response?

## **II. Hope Explained – Read Luke 1:34-38**

- A. How would you describe the process in which Mary becomes pregnant by the Holy Spirit? Why is it so important for Jesus to be born both of man (Mary) and of God (Holy Spirit)?
- B. Why do you think the angel Gabriel tells Mary about Elizabeth's pregnancy (v.36)? In what ways is it similar to God's miraculous work in creation? How is it unique?
- C. How does Mary's response (v.38) demonstrate her faith in God? What are some practical ways in which you can grow in handling the difficult situations that God places you in by faith?

## **III. Hope Embraced – Read Luke 1:39-56**

- A. What stands out to you with regard to Elizabeth's response to Mary when she arrives? List all the different things that we learn about Mary and her child from Elizabeth's exclamation.
- B. As you read through Mary's Magnificat, what are some of the different reasons why she praises God? How does Christ's coming fulfill the promises that God made to Abraham (vv.54-55)?
- C. What do you think it looks like to have a simple hope in Christ during the chaos of Christmas?
- D. Hope has a future orientation; and yet, it's grounded in the past. How does God's past promises and their fulfillment fuel your hope of future glory? How is Romans 8:32 a great example?