

Introduction

1. Last Sunday morning we looked at prophecy and fulfillment of the birth of John the Baptist. The passage we will study tonight builds upon the previous one. The mighty work of God continues and it surpasses the previous with an even greater work!
2. Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth who was a virgin waiting for the completion of her engagement with Joseph. What did Mary discover in this encounter with the angel?

I. Mary Discovered That God's Plans Are Eternal (1:28-33)

- a. Mary undoubtedly had many plans of her own
- b. Gabriel's surprising message (v28-30)
 - i. She had found favor with God; The Lord is with her
 - ii. Gabriel gives Mary the good news that she will be the mother of the promised Messiah
 - iii. She would conceive as a virgin before marriage with a boy named Jesus – Isa 7:14
 - iv. He will be the Son of God and will be Great! – Isa 9:6
 - v. Jesus would be a king that would reign forever (v33) – 2 Samuel 7:12-13
- c. Mary discovered God's plans are eternal – Acts 2:29-36; Psalm 89:4; Isa 9:7; Dan 7:13-14
 - i. We should make our plans with eternity in view – John 3:34-36; 5:24-29; Heb 5:8-9

II. Mary Discovered That God's Promises Are Unfailing (1:32-33)

- a. She would have been familiar with the promises about the Messiah
- b. What about the promises we have from God? Will God keep them?
 - i. The promise of the second coming of Jesus? – 2 Peter 3:3-4, 13-15

III. Mary Discovered That God's Power Is Unlimited (1:34-38)

- a. How can this happen? (v34)
 - i. By the power of the Holy Spirit (v35) A miracle!
 - ii. Jesus is fully God and fully man yet without sin – 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - iii. God has proven His power in Elisabeth (v36)
 - iv. With God all things are possible! (v37)
- b. Many things are impossible without God's Power
 - i. Impossible to get rid of my sins, to make myself righteous, to know real peace, to have eternal life
But with God all things are possible...

Conclusion

1. Mary's discoveries are demonstrated in the gospel...
 - a. God's plans are eternal: The cross
 - i. 1 Peter 2:24 – sins forgiven, made to live in righteousness
 - ii. Colossians 1:19-20 – Peace is made with us and God
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – Power of God brings salvation
 - b. God's promises are unfailing: The Resurrection
 - i. 1 Peter 1:3-6a Eternal life is guaranteed for nothing is impossible with God!
 - c. God's power is unlimited: New birth to those who believe
 - i. Romans 1:16 – God's power is for all who will believe
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 13:4-5; Ephesians 1:18-21 – The power of God is directed to believers