

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

## The Spirit's Most Significant Mission

Luke 1:26–38



### LET'S BEGIN HERE

For millennia, average Christians as well as learned theologians have strained more than one brain cell trying to understand the incomprehensible mystery surrounding the conception and birth of our Savior. We'll not lose ourselves in the unsolvable riddle that is the conception of God the Son. Rather, we'll lose ourselves in the wonder that is God the Holy Spirit's most significant mission.



### LET'S DIG DEEPER

#### 1. Tracking the Original Events

Keeping the events of Jesus' conception and birth in order is challenging, especially because they are scattered across different gospels. The chart at the end of this Message Mate will help you.

#### 2. Examining the Angel's Message (Luke 1:26–37)

Gabriel's message to Mary about the conception of Christ was impossible to understand with reason alone, but he assured her that anything is possible with God.



## Quotable

*I urge you to let  
this one statement*

*sink in:*

*NOTHING is*

*impossible with*

*God.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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### 3. Understanding the Virgin's Response (Luke 1:38)

Gabriel's perplexing message was impossible to understand but not impossible for Mary to believe, because of her humility.

There are three benefits to true humility (1 Peter 5:5–7):

1. Humility gives us grace to accept whatever comes.
2. Humility comes with a promise—God will reward it.
3. Humility relieves us of anxiety.



### LET'S LIVE IT

The conception of Jesus Christ in the womb of a teenage Jewish girl was the most significant mission of the Spirit, and certainly the most mysteriously profound. Strain as we might to understand, in the end we must give up our striving and our unreasonable affection for reason and simply choose to “understand” by faith, to believe that the Spirit conceived the only One who can save our souls. Scripture promises that someday we will “know fully, even as [we are] fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12 NIV). On that day, all things will become reasonable.

**Two practical applications can be drawn from these passages.**

- The Holy Spirit may be sending you out, like Gabriel, to announce the good news of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection to people who need to hear.
- Or, the Spirit is persuading you to receive the good news as Mary did—in simple faith.

**What is God's opinion of those who carry the message of the good news, according to Romans 10:15?**



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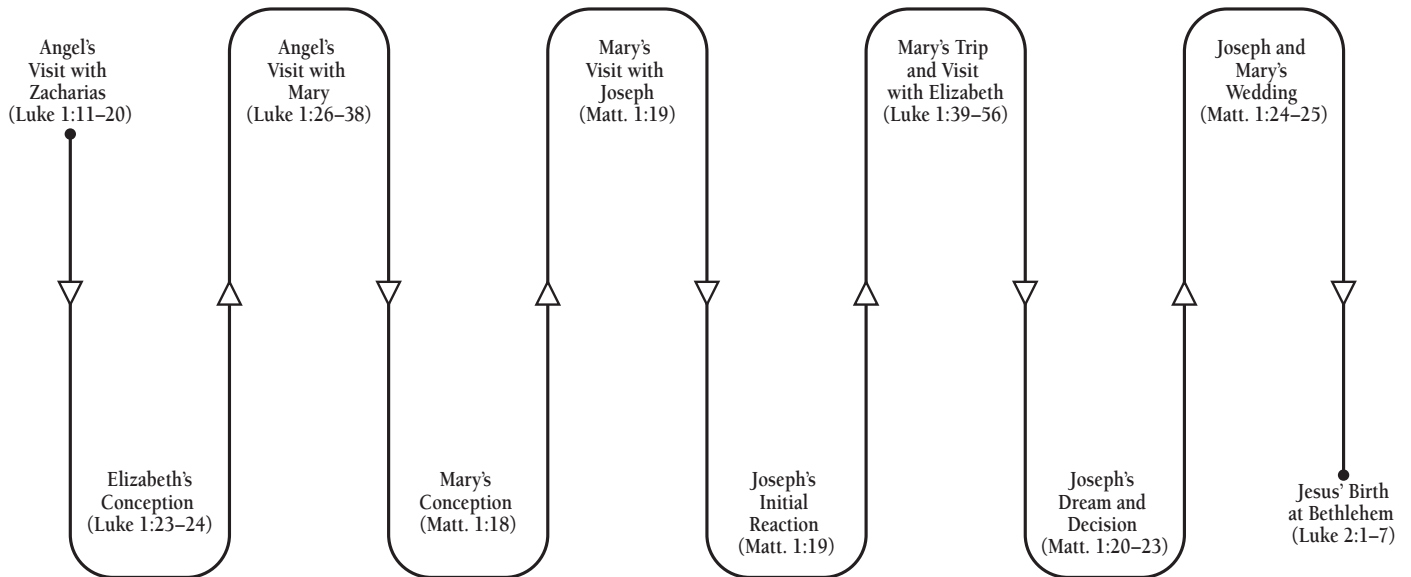
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### Important Events Leading to Jesus' Birth



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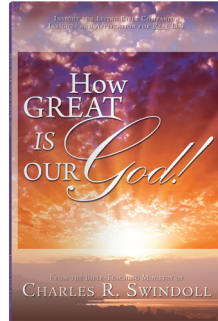
*Luke 1:26–38*



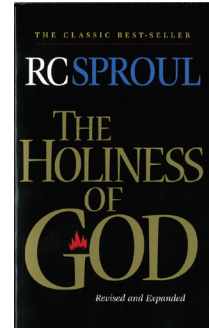
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