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²⁶IN THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL WAS SENT FROM GOD TO A CITY OF GALILEE NAMED NAZARETH, ²⁷TO A VIRGIN BETROTHED TO A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS JOSEPH, OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID. AND THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY. ²⁸AND HE CAME TO HER AND SAID, "GREETINGS, O FAVORED ONE, THE LORD IS WITH YOU!" ²⁹BUT SHE WAS GREATLY TROUBLED AT THE SAYING, AND TRIED TO DISCERN WHAT SORT OF GREETING THIS MIGHT BE.

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I. THE UNEXPECTED DISRUPTS OUR PLANS

³⁰AND THE ANGEL SAID TO HER, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY, FOR YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. ³¹AND BEHOLD, YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS. ³²HE WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH. AND THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE TO HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID, ³³AND HE WILL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER, AND OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END." —LUKE 1:26-33

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"THOUGH FULLY REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS FORESHADOWED IN THE OLD. IN GENESIS 3:15, GOD DECLARED THE 'SEED OF WOMAN' (CHRIST) WOULD CRUSH SATAN'S HEAD. PSALM 2 PREDICTS THAT AT A SPECIFIC TIME THE ETERNAL SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY WOULD BE BORN INTO THE WORLD. THE ONLY WAY THAT COULD HAPPEN WOULD BE THROUGH A VIRGIN'S BIRTH. ISAIAH 7:14 RECORDS THE STARTLING PREDICTION, 'A VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD AND BEAR A SON AND SHE WILL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL' (MATTHEW 1:23). ... THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST IS FOUNDATIONAL TO CHRISTIANITY SINCE IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN HOW HE COULD BE THE GOD-MAN." —JOHN MACARTHUR

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¹⁸NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST TOOK PLACE IN THIS WAY. WHEN HIS MOTHER MARY HAD BEEN BETROTHED TO JOSEPH, BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER SHE WAS FOUND TO BE WITH CHILD FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

¹⁹AND HER HUSBAND JOSEPH, BEING A JUST MAN AND UNWILLING TO PUT HER TO SHAME, RESOLVED TO DIVORCE HER QUIETLY. ²⁰BUT AS HE CONSIDERED THESE THINGS, BEHOLD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM, SAYING, "JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID, DO NOT FEAR TO TAKE MARY AS YOUR WIFE, FOR THAT WHICH IS CONCEIVED IN HER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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²¹SHE WILL BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."

²²ALL THIS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET: ²³"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL" (WHICH MEANS, GOD WITH US).

²⁴WHEN JOSEPH WOKE FROM SLEEP, HE DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED HIM: HE TOOK HIS WIFE, ²⁵BUT KNEW HER NOT UNTIL SHE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON. AND HE CALLED HIS NAME JESUS.

—MATTHEW 1:18-25

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- THEY WERE NOT YET MARRIED
—A SOCIAL SCANDAL
- THEY WERE NOT PREPARED
—A PERSONAL STRUGGLE
- THEY WOULD NOT CONSUMMATE THEIR MARRIAGE
—A PHYSICAL SACRIFICE
- THEY WOULD SEE THE FULFILLMENT OF A PROMISE
—A BIBLICAL HOPE
- THEY WOULD DISCOVER GOD IS UNPREDICTABLE
BUT ALWAYS FAITHFUL
—A SPIRITUAL TRUTH

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... ⁶WHO, THOUGH HE WAS IN THE FORM OF GOD, DID NOT COUNT EQUALITY WITH GOD A THING TO BE GRASPED, ⁷BUT EMPTIED HIMSELF,

BY TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT,
BEING BORN IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN.
⁸AND BEING FOUND IN HUMAN FORM,
HE HUMBLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT
TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.

—PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8

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“LIVING A LIFE OF FOLLOWING CHRIST MEANS CONSTANT INTERRUPTIONS.” —BOB GOFF

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³⁴AND MARY SAID TO THE ANGEL, “HOW WILL THIS BE, SINCE I AM A VIRGIN?” ³⁵AND THE ANGEL ANSWERED HER, “THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU; THEREFORE THE CHILD TO BE BORN WILL BE CALLED HOLY—THE SON OF GOD. ³⁶AND BEHOLD, YOUR RELATIVE ELIZABETH IN HER OLD AGE HAS ALSO CONCEIVED A SON, AND THIS IS THE SIXTH MONTH WITH HER WHO WAS CALLED BARREN. ³⁷FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.” ³⁸AND MARY SAID, “BEHOLD, I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD; LET IT BE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.” AND THE ANGEL DEPARTED FROM HER. —LUKE 1:34-38

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2. THE UNEXPECTED DEMANDS OUR SURRENDER

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²⁴WHEN JOSEPH WOKE FROM SLEEP, HE DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED HIM: HE TOOK HIS WIFE, ²⁵BUT KNEW HER NOT UNTIL SHE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON. AND HE CALLED HIS NAME JESUS. —MATTHEW 1:24-25

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"WHEN SUFFERING ENTERS OUR DOOR—WHEN WE ARE WEAKENED AND DISTRESSED BY THE UNEXPECTED, THE UNPLANNED AND THE UNWANTED—WE ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO LISTENING TO THE LIES OF THE ENEMY. ONE LIE IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT; THAT IS, THAT OUR SUFFERING IS UNIQUE. THIS IS THE LIE THAT GOD HAS FAVORITES, AND WE ARE NOT ONE OF THEM. ANOTHER LIE COMES IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION, 'WHERE IS YOUR GOD NOW?' THIS IS THE LIE THAT GOD HAS ABANDONED US AND DOESN'T ALWAYS KEEP HIS PROMISES. IN OUR MOMENTS OF WEAKNESS, THE ENEMY WANTS US TO DOUBT THE LOVE, GOODNESS AND COVENANT FAITHFULNESS OF THE LORD. THE ENEMY KNOWS THAT WHEN WE BEGIN TO DOUBT GOD'S GOODNESS, WE STOP GOING TO HIM FOR HELP, BECAUSE WE SEEK HELP ONLY FROM SOMEONE WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST. IF WE DOUBT THE LOVE OF GOD, THEN WE WON'T FOLLOW HIM BY FAITH." —PAUL DAVID TRIPP

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3. THE UNEXPECTED DELIVERS GOD'S PROMISE

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²¹"SHE WILL BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS." ²²ALL THIS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET: ²³"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL" (WHICH MEANS, GOD WITH US). —MATTHEW 1:21-23

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³THIS IS GOOD, AND IT IS PLEASING IN THE SIGHT OF GOD OUR SAVIOR, ⁴WHO DESIRES ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH. ⁵FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND THERE IS ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS, ⁶WHO GAVE HIMSELF AS A RANSOM FOR ALL, WHICH IS THE TESTIMONY GIVEN AT THE PROPER TIME.
—I TIMOTHY 2:3-6

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⁴BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS
OF TIME HAD COME,
GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON,
BORN OF WOMAN,
BORN UNDER THE LAW,
⁵TO REDEEM THOSE WHO
WERE UNDER THE LAW,
SO THAT WE MIGHT
RECEIVE ADOPTION AS SONS.
—GALATIANS 4:4-5

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¹²THEREFORE, JUST AS SIN CAME INTO THE WORLD
THROUGH ONE MAN, AND DEATH THROUGH SIN, AND
SO DEATH SPREAD TO ALL MEN BECAUSE ALL SINNED...
¹⁵BUT THE FREE GIFT IS NOT LIKE THE TRESPASS.
FOR IF MANY DIED THROUGH ONE MAN'S TRESPASS,
MUCH MORE HAVE THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE FREE GIFT
BY THE GRACE OF THAT ONE MAN JESUS CHRIST
ABOUNDED FOR MANY... ¹⁹FOR AS BY THE
ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE THE MANY WERE MADE
SINNERS, SO BY THE ONE MAN'S OBEDIENCE THE MANY
WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS. —ROMANS 5:12, 15, 19

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TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, WHOEVER HEARS MY WORD
AND BELIEVES HIM WHO SENT ME HAS ETERNAL LIFE.
HE DOES NOT COME INTO JUDGMENT, BUT HAS PASSED
FROM DEATH TO LIFE. —JOHN 5:24

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