



**Where are we ?**





**Nazareth, 1842**

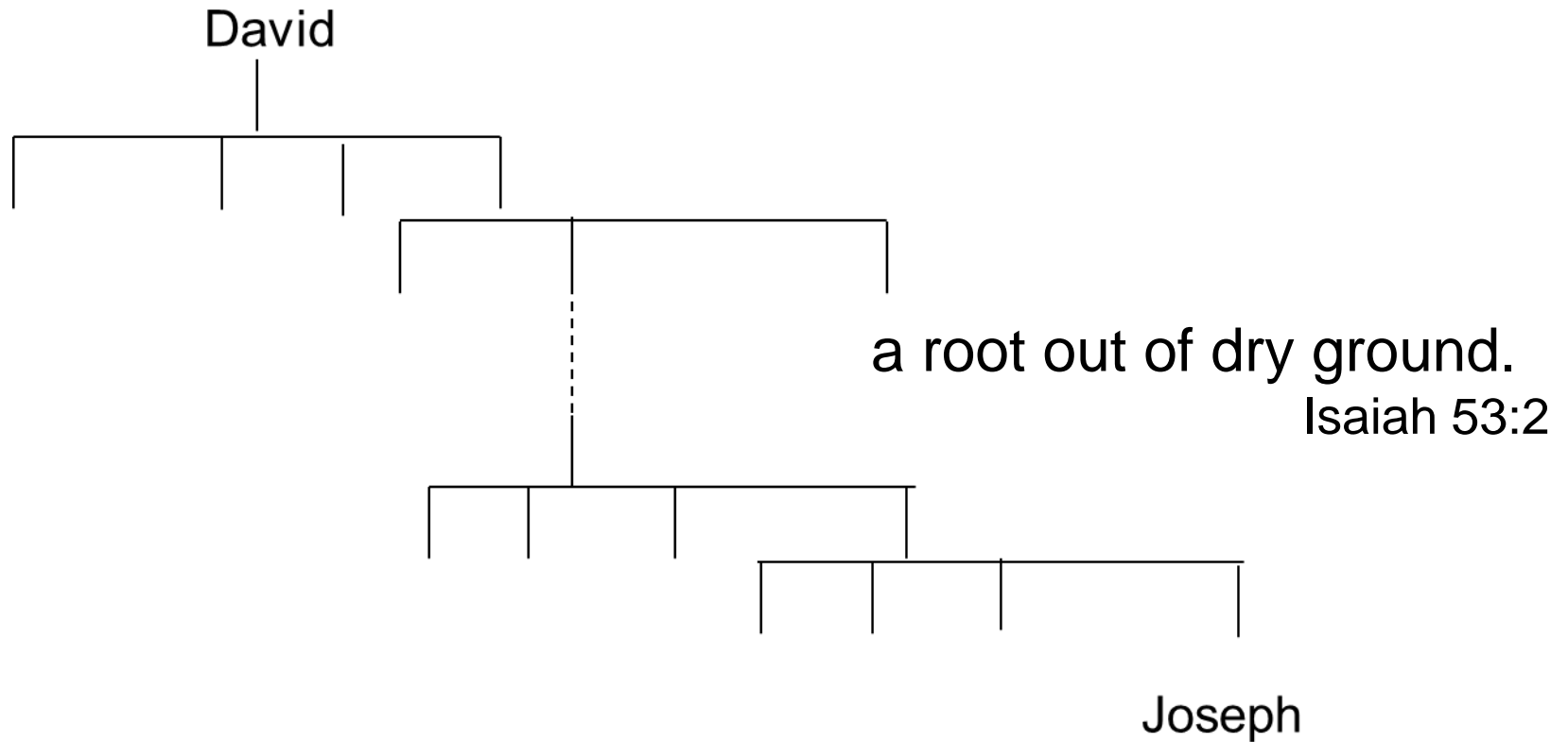
**Luke 1:26 - 56**

**in the sixth month**  
**Luke 1:26**



# First the man ...

**Joseph a descendant of David** (a legal heir)



# Now the woman ...

A virgin (Isaiah 7:14)

pledged to be married to Joseph  
(note 1<sup>st</sup> Century marriage customs)

**A**rranged & Engagement  
(officially Married)

**B**ridegroom comes

**C**onsummation after Marriage supper

named Miriam  
(Greek = Mariam)



# **Gabriel's Second Mission**


God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, v 26



**How did Mary know his name?**

**Greetings, you who are highly favoured!  
The Lord is with you.**

**Luke 1:28**

A painting of the Virgin Mary sitting on a bed in a dimly lit room. She is wearing a dark, heavy robe and a head covering. Her expression is one of deep thought and concern. The room is sparsely furnished, with a simple bed and a small table. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the left, creating a bright glow and deep shadows.

**Mary was greatly troubled at  
his words and wondered what  
kind of greeting this might be.**

**Luke 1:29**

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God.

## **The PLAN**

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:31 - 33





# Mary's reply

How will this be ? NOT How can this be !



# **The miracle of the incarnation**

cf. Genesis 1: 2

**"The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.**

**Luke 1:35**



# Angelic email !



Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

For no word from God will ever fail.

Luke 1:36 - 37

# The Risks of Faith

"I am the Lord's servant,"  
Mary answered. "May your  
word to me be fulfilled."  
Then the angel left her.  
Luke 1:38



At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea  
Luke 1:39



... she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:39 - 41



# The Presence of the Holy Spirit

In a loud voice she exclaimed:  
"Blessed are you among  
women, and blessed is the child  
you will bear! But why am I so  
favoured, that the mother of my  
Lord should come to me?  
As soon as the sound of your  
greeting reached my ears, the  
baby in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed is she who has  
believed that the Lord would  
fulfil his promises to her!"

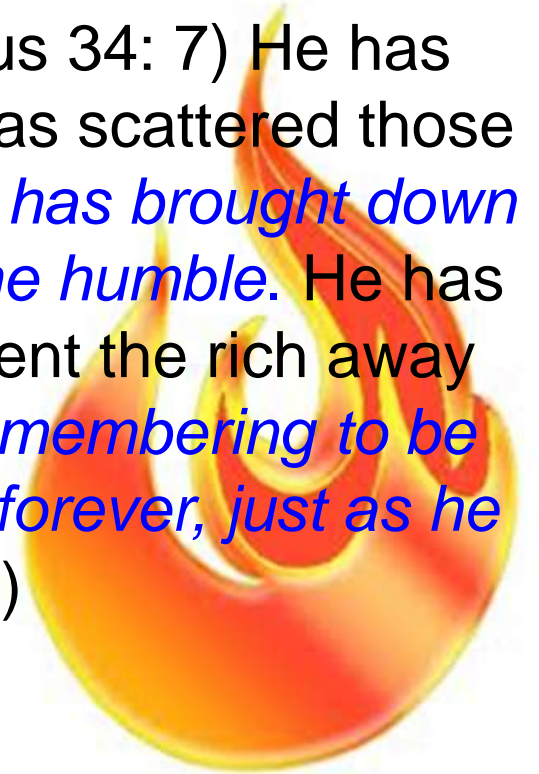
**How did she know ?**

**The Messenger  
begins his ministry.**



# Mary's Prophecy

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. *His "mercy" extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.* (Exodus 34: 7) He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. *He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.* He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, *remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.*" (Genesis 12: 2- 3)





# The Risks of Faith

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Luke 1:56



**What does Mary's story tell us about :-**

**The Relationship of wealth/godliness to Blessing**

**God's view of Sexual purity and Marriage**

**The value of Spiritual Companionship**

**The work of the Spirit before Pentecost**

**The Child?**

**What should our response be to this?**