

What Makes Christmas So Special?

(Luke 1:26-45)

Getting Ready for Christmas, No. 2

The way to get ready for Christmas is to turn your heart toward God.

Turning Our Hearts Toward God

- 1. Put worship at the top of your "to do" list.
- 2. Reopen the gift of God's grace.
- 3. Ask God again for the "impossible."



Luke 1:26-27 (NIV)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:28-29 (NIV)

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:30-31 (NIV)

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:32-33 (NIV)

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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."



Birth Announcement

(Luke 1:31-33)

Name: Jesus

Prognosis: Great

Parentage: Son of the Most High

Position: Sit on the Throne of David

Prognosis: Eternal Reign



Christmas is so special because...

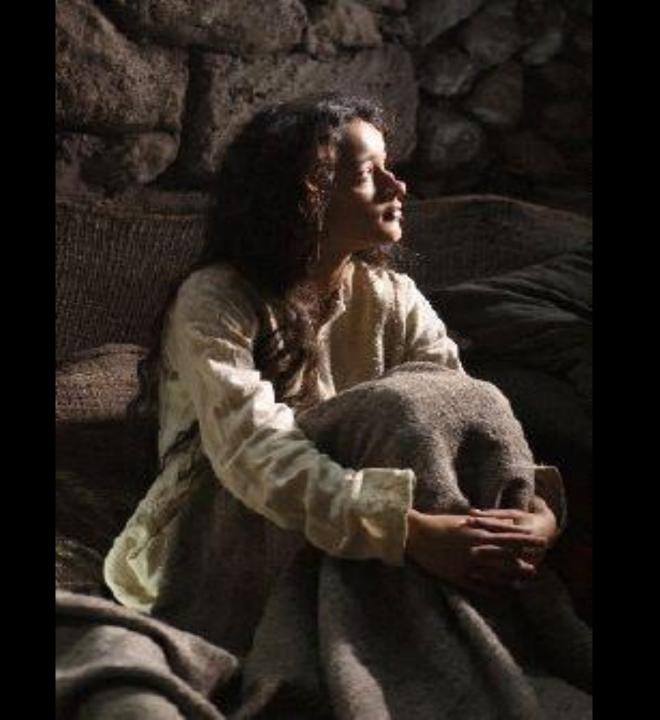
1. it integrates the spiritual and the physical.

2.

3.







Luke 1:34 (NIV)

"How will this be,"
Mary asked the angel,
"since I am a virgin?"

Luke 1:35 (NIV)

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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 1:36-37 (NIV)

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

37 For nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:38 (NIV)

"I am the Lord's servant,"
Mary answered.
"May it be to me as you have said."
Then the angel left her.

Christmas is so special because...

- 1. it integrates the spiritual and the physical.
- 2. it infuses us with spiritual strength.
- **3.**



Johann Sebastian Bach

• JJ = Jesu Juva = "Help me, Jesus"

• SDG = Soli Deo Gloria = "to God alone, the glory"



Luke 1:39-40 (NIV)

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:41 (NIV)

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

Luke 1:42-43 (NIV)

In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luke 1:44-45 (NIV)

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Christmas is so special because...

- 1. it integrates the spiritual and the physical.
- 2. it infuses us with spiritual strength.
- 3. it inspires hope.

How Do I Make Christmas Special?

