



# INVASION

Studies on the Birth of Christ

December 16, 2007

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

Volume 6, Issue 8



## Songs of the Season

### Introduction to Luke 1:26-2:35

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

One of the enjoyable aspects of Christmas is the music that fills the season. As we see in Luke gospel there were songs that filled that first Christmas as well, songs that give us insight into its true significance. The first of these songs was Mary’s “Magnificat”. She sang this to the Lord after the angel, Gabriel, disclosed to her that she would have a baby who would be “the Son of the Most High” who would sit on David’s throne. This meant that she would be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah. She wondered how this could be since she was a virgin and of such a lowly class. Gabriel explained that nothing was impossible with God, and after her cousin Elizabeth confirmed that she would indeed be the mother of the Lord, Mary broke into a song praising

God for having regard for even the most lowly of His servants. It was a beautiful picture of how God abases the proud and exalts the humble. The next song, called the “Benedictus” was sung by the father of John the Baptist, Zacharias. He and Elizabeth were not only promised a son in their old age, but also that this son would be the forerunner of the Messiah, preparing a welcome reception for His coming. Above all this news meant to Zacharias that God redeems His people, giving them salvation when they need it most. He praised God for honoring His covenant and providing forgiveness and redemption from their sins. The third song was sung by a host of angels to shepherds on a Galilean hillside. After telling them of



**God’s invasion of earth in the birth of His Son gives us a reason to sing.**

the birth of the Savior, the angels sang of God’s glory in the highest and of the peace that God gives to those of His good pleasure. Thus, it was a song of how God reconciles His people. Finally, at Jesus’ presentation in the temple eight days after His birth Simeon, who had been looking for the Consolation of Israel, sung what is known as the Nunc Dimittis. He praised God for revealing Himself to His people, Jews and Gentiles. As we can see, much of the significance of Christ’s birth was captured in these songs of the season.

## Daily Study Questions for Luke 1:26-2:35

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

1. Read Luke 1:26-30. How was Mary described (v27, 28, 30) and what did Gabriel say to her (v28, 30)? What was Mary’s reaction (v29)?	
2. Look at Luke 1:31-38. What did Gabriel announce to Mary (v31) and what did he tell her about this (v32-33)? How would this happen (v35-37) and how did Mary respond (v34, 38)?	
3. From Luke 1:39-45 what did Mary do next (v39-40) and what did Elizabeth tell her (v41-45)? What do you think this would have done for Mary?	

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## Luke 1:26-2:35 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Luke 1:46-56 name the different ways in each verse that Mary praised the Lord. What seems to be the main theme (v48, 51, 52, 53)?

5. In Luke 1:57-66 what happened when John's name was confirmed (v59-64)? What reaction did this cause (v65-66)? How did this help prepare the way for Jesus?

6. Looking at Luke 1:67-80 what did John's birth show that God was doing (v68, 69, 70-71, 72-73, 74-75, 80), and why (v78-79)? What would John's role be (v76, 77)?

7. According to Luke 2:1-12 what did the angel's announce (v4-7, 10-12)? What made this such good news (v10, 11)?

8. From Luke 2:13-20 what was the angels' hymn of praise (v13-14) and what did it mean? How did the shepherds respond (v15-17)? What impact did this have (v18-20)?

9. Using Luke 2:21-26 what happened next to Jesus (v21-24)? Why was this important for Simeon (v25-26)?

10. Looking at Luke 2:27-32 how did Simeon bless God and Jesus (v28-32)? Why would Jesus be the "consolation of Israel" (v25, 32)?

11. In Luke 2:33-35 what else did Simeon say about Jesus (v34, 35)? How can we apply that?

12. Look back over the Christmas story. What is the theme of each of these songs (1:46-55; 1:68-79; 2:14; 2:29-32) and how can you apply them to your life?

### Scripture to Remember

*"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord."*

**Luke 2:11 (NASV)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Sheep Need Hope (Ps 23:6)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Would you describe yourself as a "cup half empty" or a "cup half full" person? Why do you think that is?
2. Read Psalm 23:6. Where have you seen God's goodness working around you lately?
3. Do you agree with the statement, "Even when life is bad, God is good"? What are some of the reasons we become blind to the goodness of God around us?
4. Talk about some "positive" ways God's lovingkindness has pursued you, and some negative ways. How does that make you feel when you think about that?
5. Discuss the significance of having an eternal home versus a tent. Do you think Christians really believe this?
6. Why are these aspects of heaven important—that it is a place, and a prepared place, and that we are a prepared people for it?
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.