

Christmas 2011
From Worry to Worship

Luke 1:26-56

Key Verse: 1: 32-33

1. Read verses 26-30. Who was Mary? What can you learn about her in these verses? How did the angel greet her, and why was she troubled at his greeting? What does it mean to find favor with God? What was the favor or grace God gave Mary? (31) [How did Paul view God's grace or favor? See Ro 1:5; Php 1:29; Eph 3:8; Eph 2:10.]
2. Read verses 31-33. What did the angel tell Mary about the son she would bear? List all the things you can learn in these verses about who Jesus is and what he came to do.
3. What is the spiritual meaning of "David's throne" and "kingdom that will never end"? (2Sa 7:11-13; Da 2:35;44-45) Jesus became our eternal king through his death and resurrection. Explain. What was Mary's response? How does this reveal her great faith? What was the basis of her decision of faith? What can we learn from her?
4. What did Mary do in the time of the crisis brought about by her acceptance of God's mission to bear the baby Jesus? Why is it important to remember God's word in time of crisis? In what respects was Mary's visit to Elizabeth an act of faith? How did Elizabeth counsel and encourage her? What can we learn from Mary? From Elizabeth?
5. Read verses 46-47. Why did Elizabeth's blessing evoke such praise of God? Such personal joy? Read verses 48-49. Why does God's calling bring joy even if it involves much suffering?
6. Read verses 49-50. What does Mary say about God himself? To whom does God's mercy extend? How has God shown mercy to you?
7. Read verses 51-56. What does Mary teach about God's justice and mercy? What can we learn here about the principle of God's history? About God's faithfulness to keep his promises? (54-56) Why are those who obey God truly happy?