



Mary & the Magnificat

Jack Wisdom & David Capes

Holy is God's name!

50 From generation to generation,
God's loving faithfulness endures
for those who fear Him.

51 God's arm will accomplish mighty deeds:
Those who are proud in the thoughts of their heart,
God will send them away in disarray.

52 The rulers from their high positions of power,
God will bring them down low.
And those who are humble,
God will lift them up with dignity.

53 The hungry—God will fill them.
The rich—God will send them away empty.

CS Lewis: the Numinous

Suppose you were told there was a tiger in the next room: you would know that you were in danger and would probably feel fear. But if you were told "There is a ghost in the next room," and you believed it, you would feel, indeed, what is often called fear, but of a different kind. It would not be based on the knowledge of danger, for no one is primarily afraid of what a ghost may do to him, but of the mere fact that it is a ghost.

CS Lewis: the Numinous

It is “uncanny” rather than dangerous, and the special kind of fear it excites may be called Dread. With the Uncanny one has reached the fringes of the Numinous. Now suppose that you were told simply “There is a mighty spirit in the room,” and believed it. Your feelings would then be even less like the mere fear of danger: but the disturbance would be profound.

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FEARING GOD

- + Fear YHWH your God – serve him only. *(Dt. 6:13)*
- + Fear YHWH and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the phony Gods and serve YHWH *(Josh. 24:14)*
- + Let the fear of YHWH be on you. Judge carefully, for with YHWH our God there is no injustice or partiality or briber *(2 Chron. 19:7)*
- + Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to fulfill his good purpose. *(Phil. 2:12-13)*

Our fundamental attitude [towards God] must be that of fear. To fear God, yes, but in a sense that perhaps surprises us, because in the Bible, trembling is something that has two almost contradictory meanings. Man trembles because he is afraid, and he trembles because he loves. In the fear of YHWH, both aspects are included at the same time. The fear of the Lord is the fact of taking him seriously for what he is and not forgetting who he is. The opposite of fear is not so much familiarity as forgetfulness. Fear God or forget him, that is the alternative.

— Dominique Bartholemy, *God and His Image*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

Trust YHWH with all your heart
and lean not on your own thinking.

In all your ways submit to him,
and he will keep you on the right path.

Do not be wise in your own eyes,

Fear YHWH and turn away from evil.

This will do you good and help you too.

— *Prov. 3:5-8*

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The background features a dark red, stylized illustration of the Magnificat scene. It depicts the Virgin Mary on the left and Elizabeth on the right, both shown in profile and facing each other. They are surrounded by other figures, including a central figure who appears to be the infant Jesus, all rendered in a minimalist, line-art style. The overall composition is symmetrical and centered.

MARY & THE MAGNIFICAT

DAVID CAPES
ECCLESIA ADVENT SERIES 2015

Mary, Mother of Jesus



THE EARLIEST WITNESS TO JESUS' MOTHER IS PAUL

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

- + Mary's name is not given.
- + Paul never mentions the virgin birth.



SINCE MARK IS LIKELY THE FIRST GOSPEL WRITTEN, IT CONTAINS THE EARLIEST RECORD OF JESUS' MOTHER.

Mark 3:31-35

31 Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. 32 A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." 33 Answering them, He said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" 34 Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! 35 "For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."

MATTHEW'S GENEALOGY

Matthew's genealogy is unique:

- + It contains the names of women
- + It alludes to scandal in Jesus' line
- + It includes the names of outsiders



THE VIRGIN BIRTH



Matthew identifies Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham, and traces Jesus' genealogy down to Joseph who is betrothed to Mary.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Matthew 1:18-25 (*The Voice*)

18 So here, finally, is the story of the birth of Jesus the Anointed (it is quite a remarkable story):

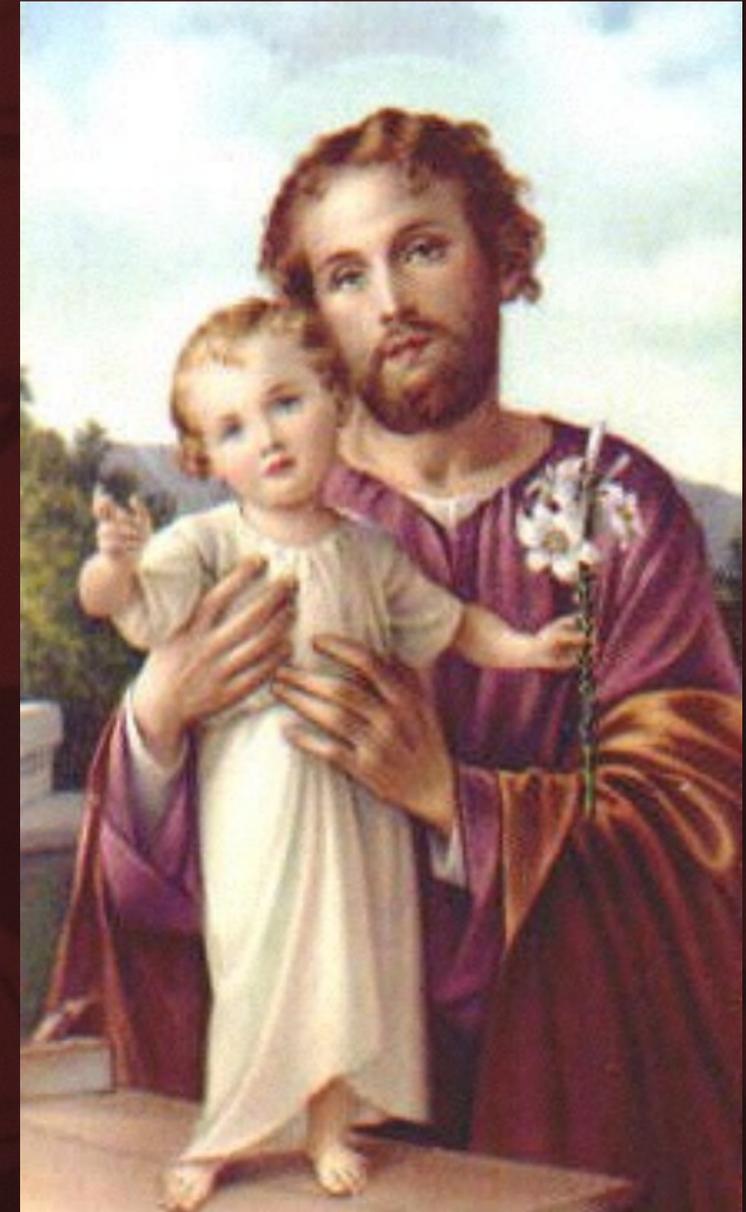
Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, son of David. They hadn't married. And yet, some time well before their wedding date, Mary learned that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Matthew 1:18-25

19 Joseph, because he was kind and upstanding and honorable, wanted to spare Mary shame. He did not wish to cause her more embarrassment than necessary.

20 Now when Joseph had decided to act on his instincts, a messenger of the Lord came to him in a dream.



THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Matthew 1:18-25



Messenger of the Lord: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to wed Mary and bring her into your home and family as your wife. She did not sneak off and sleep with someone else—rather, she conceived the baby she now carries through the miraculous wonderworking of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus, which means “the Lord saves,” because this Jesus is the person who will save all of His people from sin.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Matthew 1:22-23

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

Which means, "God is with us."

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

The virgin conception and birth of Jesus is said to be the “fulfillment” of Isa 7.14

Is Isa 7.14 a prediction of the future or a typology?



THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Turns out to be both prediction of an event that happened in the days of Isaiah of Jerusalem and a typology.

What is a typology?

1. The art of seeing and creating correspondence between two similar events
2. A strategy for reading whereby the reader seeks to identify a structural affinity or correspondence between two of God's actions.

— David B. Capes "Typology" in,
The Encyclopedia of the Historical Jesus

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

For Matthew, Mary's "conception" is the creative work of God. He wants to distance his story of Jesus' birth from other myths in his day. He and his audience were well aware of stories of gods coming down and engaging in sexual relations with women to create a kind of superman (*e.g., Hercules*).

THE VIRGIN BIRTH



Matthew insists that no sexual act took place. The life in Mary is “of the Holy Spirit.” Mary is the first surrogate mother.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Joseph obeys the dream vision he has, takes Mary as his wife and gives Jesus legal status.





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