

# The Greatest Story Ever Told - Revelation vs. Manifestation

## Part 2

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### Message Background

What is your God-given life assignment? You are the messenger of hope!

### Central Truth

How can you know that God is at work in you? Since God is inviting you to be a messenger of hope, what do you need to know?

### God's Revelation is Your Invitation

- What were you placed on this earth to do?
- God's message of hope has been birthed in you
- Requirements of the assignment
- Heaven's assignment is waiting for your "YES".

### Text: Luke 1:26-38

#### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And **behold**, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## Lay Hold of Your Future

*We have not chosen Him but He has chosen us (John 15:16).* The Lord has personally selected you. Wrapped up in the very word for “church” is the idea of being called out for a specific reason. God has called us out of our own plans for our lives and out of the confusion of our past.

Then once He calls us out, He calls us in—into the excellency of His Kingdom, into communion with Him, and into His plan for our lives. It may sometimes seem that the plan lies just around the next bend in the road of our spiritual walk with Christ, just beyond our reach or not very well defined. But we press on so that we may grasp God’s plan for us, the plan God had in mind when He grasped us. Keep moving on! His plan is there for you and it is in His plan that you will find your firmest purpose, deepest fulfillment, and highest joy. There are amazing numbers of people who are still trapped in their view of yesterday’s disappointments. I want to encourage you to **take hold of the promise of your future**. It is not just going to happen, you must:

- Seize the Lord
- Seize the promise
- Seize the Word.

## Main Points

**How can you know that God is at work in you?**

### 1. God makes hopes come true

- a. The world is teaching “manifestation”, but God teaches us “revelation” – *the revelation is the promise*
  - i. It is about the revelation of God’s will for your life not about what you think you should manifest to the universe
  - ii. God wants to fulfill our hopes
1. The analogy we are drawing to the **womb** has to do with our **hearts**. What the womb and heart have in common is that **they both carry the secret of a hope within them**.
  - a. **In every person’s heart**—transcending gender—there’s a hope for something:
    - That things will work out in this present trauma
    - That there will come healing and health
    - Restoration and reconciliation
    - The overcoming of the tough situations that seem to require a miracle.
  - b. God wants to work through you, but it requires that you **believe the message** that’s coming to you.

## 2. God knows your location

- a. God knows where you are at right now - this means physical location and spiritual state. When God needs you, He knows how to find you and He knows what you are going through.
- b. *To a city of Galilee named Nazareth*—God knows where Mary lives.
  - i. There are people today who wonder if God's forgotten their address
  - ii. Your address is not just a place where you live; it is what is going on in your life right now. God knows the pain or fear you are living in; the trauma you have gone through.
  - iii. He knows the high moments as well and He wants to bless and inspire you beyond anything you can do by your own working.

## 3. You are highly favoured

- a. Favour is found in the eyes of God; this is also means blessing and grace
- b. "The Lord is with you"
  - i. We are not told why Mary was chosen, it is by grace and His divine knowledge and will.
  - ii. Favour removes fear – we have confidence in His call and that He is with us
  - iii. Fear is one of the greatest enemies we will always have to overcome – do not be afraid
    - 1. "*You are highly favored*" - the Angel says this twice. The word *favor* used here is the word for **grace**—you are going to get what you never earned, what you never deserved, and could never make happen. Then he says, "*Do not be afraid.*"
    - 2. **Why do people fear the goodness of God?** Probably because they think He is just like human beings, the best at which are capable of disappointing us.
    - 3. But the Lord will not disappoint us. Part of the Angel's message—we have to **decide whether or not to receive**—has to do with whether you are **willing** to let the Holy Spirit **show you that place in your life** where God wants to get in close and begin to do something.
- c. God knows the impact He will make
  - i. *To a man whose name was Joseph*—God knew the impact that was going to happen in Mary would also have an impact on Joseph (Matthew 1). Only the Lord could offset Joseph's anger.
  - ii. When God begins to do something in you it can create tension in relationships but when the "Mary miracle" is happening, **it will be resolved in everyone's best interest** by reason of the grace of God.

## 4. What is born of God will come to pass

- a. You will conceive – bring to birth the plans of God for your life
- b. Will you receive the message from heaven?
  - i. The incarnation that took place in Mary happens in people who choose to receive the message and say, as she did, "**Yes, Lord I want to be changed that way.**"
  - ii. This gets us beyond the trivial to what life is about and turns us into the kind of people who are able to **show God's love because we have opened up to it.**

- iii. The Angel's message from the Lord to you today is:
  1. The word that God is going to do a great thing in you
  2. Not because you have earned it or deserve it, but because He's favored you
  3. He knows where you live and has come to your address to say:
  4. *I'm ready to **work the life of My Son in you**, in a dimension that's never been*
  5. *before.*
  6. *It will **grow** in you and **stretch** you, and then **He'll happen through you**, and it will make a **difference** in the world around you.*
  7. **What grows in you is the seed of a Word from God.** If you are a candidate for the Mary miracle happening in your heart—as real and tangible as what happened in her womb, say, “Yes, Lord” to the Mary message.
  
- iv. **“And behold”** — the force of this verb is **“look!”** with great implications.

*“The promise of your future is pregnant with Divine possibilities yet integrated with human responsibility. God has secured your future, yet it requires you to reach out and take it – to possess your future of divine promises”. – Jack Hayford*

## 5. The Holy Spirit will come upon you

- a. The power of the Almighty will overshadow you
- b. We need the “ability” the “dunams” of God to come upon us as individuals and the church in a fresh way
- c. The dimension of God's Kingdom within us:
  - i. By mention of the intimate part of the human anatomy—the womb, God is saying **He wants to get intimately close to us**; to get inside of us and do something so grand that it will change the world around us—it is the “Mary miracle.” **You have to make up your mind if you want it**, and the way you make up your mind is what you do with the “message.”
  - ii. *Great, highest, throne, reign* [Luke 1:32-33]. There is **no small way** to describe the Kingdom of God happening through you. The God we serve is **mighty**, and we should expect **great** things from Him because only great things are worthy of Him.
  - iii. The Word of the Spirit today is that **the Lord wants to do great things in you**. Not just “Christmas entertainment.” It's the Word of the Lord, sent as an Angel message to Mary, and the Lord sends the message to you today. And Mary's response was, *“Let it be according to Your Word”*.
  - iv. So shall that be our response: **Let it be according to Your Word.**

## Final Thought

We are to be *Guided by the WORD and led by the SPIRIT!*

Be willing - Your willingness to cooperate with heavens plan will release the grace and blessing of God in your life. Mary said, “Let it be unto me according to your Word”. The secret to Mary's success was that she was willing to obey and say, “Yes, Lord”. Mary was a prototype of what the Lord wants to do in us, but the **“Mary model”** only happens in people who **hear** the **“Mary message”** and who **respond** as she did, by saying “Yes, Lord” (Luke1:38).

- Although Mary did not understand the whole plan and how it was going to unfold and work itself out, she was willing to risk and trust God and place Him and His plan and purpose above her own reputation. This meant that she would even have to risk her life if things turned out poorly.

- Her having said yes to the angel Gabriel opened the way for the **incarnation** of the world's Redeemer, and the **manifestation** of full redemption.
- It is exactly that same thing the Lord wants to work through us. The process of redemption is intended to accomplish more than just rectify our relationship with God. That's essential, but it is only the beginning.
- There are people, who come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as their Lord and Saviour and it changes their heart but there is never **enough of what He wants to do in them** to change the world around them.
- What the Lord wants to do is **enter** us, **grow** in us, and **happen** through us to **change** the world around us.

### Group Questions

- 1) How is the womb and the heart of a human being connected when it comes to birthing hope?
- 2) God placed the hope of the world on the success of a poor peasant teenage girl. Provide three other examples from the Bible where God used nobodies to accomplish the impossible.
- 3) Is there something you need to say yes to in your life today? What have you been delaying or avoiding?
- 4) Give an example of a time when the power of God came upon you. What did it feel like? What did you experience? What were you able to accomplish for God?
- 5) What does it mean to be highly favoured by God? Is this something that we position ourselves for or is it something God does all by Himself.
- 6) How can we increase our expectancy? Does it matter to our spiritual journey?
- 7) How have you had to combat fear in your life? What was the end result of your victory?
- 8) If you were God, would you have placed the hope of the world, and be dependent, on the success of a poor peasant teenage girl?
- 9) What impact did hope have on Mary? Does it apply for us as believers today?
- 10) What is God birthing in you in this season?