



wishbook

2021

Waiting...

The Old Testament is the story
of God's people walking towards
God's promise of Christmas.

An interruption

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to **Nazareth**, a town in Galilee,

Luke 1:26 NIV

to a virgin pledged to be married to
a man named Joseph, a
descendant of David. The virgin's
name was Mary.

Luke 1:27 NIV

The angel went to her and said,
“Greetings, you who are highly
favored! The Lord is **with you.**”

Luke 1:28 NIV

Mary was greatly **troubled** at his words and **wondered** what kind of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:29 NIV

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have **found** favor with God.

Luke 1:30 NIV

You will conceive and give birth to
a son, and you are to call him
Jesus.

Luke 1:31 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,

Luke 1:32 NIV

and he will reign over Jacob's
descendants forever; his kingdom
will never end.”

Luke 1:33 NIV

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

Luke 1:34 NIV

The angel answered, “**The Holy Spirit** will come on 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 1:35 NIV

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

Luke 1:36 NIV

For no word from God will ever
fail.”

Luke 1:37 NIV

When you trust the promises of
God you won't fear the will of God.

“I am the Lord’s **servant**,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be **fulfilled**.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38 NIV

Whatever your will for
me may be, let it be.

...a sword will pierce your very
soul.”

Luke 2:35 NLT

*“A sword will pierce through your own soul.”
The most wonderful, gracious event in human
history was God sending his Son into the
world — to the cross — to “save his people
from their sins,” and this gracious event
caused indescribable grief for Mary. This is
important to note.*

As God works out his salvation of sinners, he leads us along unexpected paths that result in unexpected and sometimes agonizing pain. When it does, we can remember Mary.

*The darkest moment of her life, the sword that
stabbed deepest into her soul, was the
moment that God used most to bring salvation
and joy to the world — and to her!*

That's how he works with us too. When the sword pierces, all it feels like is terrible pain. But later we discover that our deepest wounding often becomes the channel through which the most profound grace flows.

Jon Bloom

God's promises give us the assurance that whatever may come...it is well with my soul.