

12/12/16 - A Servant's Certainty

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Luke 1:26-38

Paul L. Maier's book, *The Very First Christmas*, begins, "So your daughter is pregnant." How did Mary explain her unexpected pregnancy to her family? The Scriptures provide some clues.

Review Mary's interaction with the angel Gabriel:

*Gabriel:* "Hello! You are special, highly favored."

*Mary:* Is greatly troubled; "What kind of greeting is this?"

*Gabriel:* "Do not be afraid. You will have a holy child named Jesus."

*Mary:* "How will this be since I am a virgin?"

*Gabriel:* In 31 words, explains how this will take place. Tells of her relative Elizabeth's unexpected pregnancy.

*Mary:* "I am the Lord's servant; may your word to me be fulfilled."

Mary soon went to Judea to visit Elizabeth.

Mary's song, "The Magnificat," may answer some questions: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me?holy is his name" (vv. 46-49).

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