1. **THE ANNUNCIATION. Verses 26-38**
2. **The Angel’s Descent. (Verses 26-29)** Six months later the angel Gabriel returned. He left the glory of heaven and came to Nazareth in Galilee. The entire region was overrun by Gentiles and scorned by the religionists in Jerusalem (John 1:46). In verse 27, Gabriel came to visit a virtuous Jewish peasant girl named Mary and her espoused husband, Joseph. They were both of the kingly lineage of David, but Joseph worked as a carpenter. To this very humble home, Gabriel brought a message of grace in verse 28. He said, “Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” Grace is frequently defined as unmerited favor. Mary was “highly favoured” and “blessed…among women.” Note also “favor” or grace in verse 30. The New Testament is about grace! This favor was not only unmerited, but it was also unexpected in verse 29.

**John 1:46**, “And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

1. **The Angel’s Disclosure. (Verses 30-37)** “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.” Mary’s natural response in verse 34 was “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (See how the *Revised Standard Version* obscures verse 34.) Gabriel answered with:
2. **The Plan. (Verse 35)** “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee…”
3. **The Proof. (Verse 36)** “…thy cousin Elisabeth…hath…conceived…in her old age:”
4. **The Power. (Verse 37)** “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”

**(RSV) Luke 1:34**, “And Mary said to the angel, ‘How shall this be, since I have no husband?’"

1. **The Angel’s Departure. (Verse 38)**  Unlike Zecharias (verse 18), Mary received and submitted herself to Gabriel’s revelation from God. “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” He surely departed with joy.
2. **THE ADJUSTMENT. Verses 39-45**
3. **The Counsel Mary Required. (Verses 39-40)** The result of the revelation that Mary had received would be misunderstood and likely the topic of gossip. Gabriel had informed Mary of Elisabeth’s blessing and Mary “arose…and went…unto the house of Zacharias.” She needed the support that only Elisabeth could humanly render. Additionally, Mary could have been stoned under the Law (Deuteronomy 22:24) for fornication. She would not have visited the home of an ordained priest if she had anything to hide.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24, “If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.”

1. **The Confirmation Mary Received. (Verses 41-45)** Mary received an *instant sign* upon greeting Elisabeth, “…the babe leaped in her womb.” John the Baptist was six months developed in his mother’s womb, but he had a life of his own. There was also an *inspiring Spirit.* “Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost…And she spake out with a loud voice…” She recognized Mary’s blessing “among women,” not above them (Verse 42a), and she blessed Mary for her faith (Verse 45). Elisabeth also blessed Mary’s baby (Verse 42b) and acknowledged his preeminence (Verse 43).

**III. THE ANTHEM. Verses 46-55**

1. **A Personal Note. (Verses 46-49)** Mary magnifed and worshipped God in song. She acknowledged her need of the Saviour in verse 47, her need of mercy in verses 48-50 and her low estate in verse 48. She in no way claimed *the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.* Notice that God is Saviour in 1:47, but Jesus Christ is Saviour in 2:11.

**Isaiah 43:10**, “Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”

**Isaiah 43:11**, “I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”

**Isaiah 45:21**, “Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.”

**1 Timothy 1:1**, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;”

**1 Timothy 2:3**, “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;”

**1 Timothy 4:10**, “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

**Philippians 3:20**, “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”

**2 Timothy 1:10**, “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:”

**Titus 2:13**, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

**1 Timothy 3:16**, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

1. **A Practical Note. (Verses 50-53)** The need of all Adam’s descendents is mercy, and mercy is provided through the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 50. Additionally, hope is provided for “them of low degree,” and “the hungry.” Ultimately, the Lord Jesus will right every wrong.
2. **A Prophetic Note. (Verses 54-55)** Jerusalem had been invaded repeatedly and was under Roman rule at the time. God had not spoken for four hundred years. Gabriel’s revelation from God confirmed the unconditional Abrahamic covenant and the coming of Jesus Christ provided mercy for Israel. God had not forgotten!

**Genesis 12:1-3**, “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

**CONCLUSION.** An older woman and a younger woman harmonized about the blessings of these events and Zacharias could only sit silently. At no time during his speechless, nine months had his disbelief troubled him more.