Gracestoration Update

"Restoring People in God's Grace and Making Disciplers"

BOB AND DOTTIE (Connor) BINGHAM www.shepherdinggrace.org e-mail: info@shepherdinggrace.org VOLUME 18.4 Christmas 2011

AN UNLIKELY CHOICE???



Who would have thought that Mary was to be the one that the God of the universe would choose to be the bearer of His promised Messiah? And, why did He choose Joseph, a lowly carpenter, to shepherd Mary and soon-to-be-born Jesus?

The religious elite thought that the citizens of the dusty town of Nazareth were backward and spiritually unclean. No good thing could come from that town! They were not geographically part of the land God allotted to the tribe of Judah, but part of the rebellious Northern Kingdom of the past.

The Messiah was prophesied as the seed of King David and was to come from Judah. He was identified as *"the Lion of Judah, the root of David"* (Gen. 49:8-10; Rev. 5:5).

God's evaluation of a person is not limited to human sight and evaluation. He sees and knows the heart. Mary's teenage heart and faith is revealed in her ready response to the angel's announcement, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the Holy Child shall be called the Son of God"* (Lk. 1:35).

Mary faithfully responded, *"Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word"* (Lk. 1:38).

The angel later encouraged Joseph *"a righteous man"*, *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins... And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he* called His name **Jesus**" (Matt. 1:19-25).

Friends of CUPbearers/Gracestoration,

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I want to express our thanks to God for your continued interest in the ministry of CUPbearers and Gracestoration.

God continues to expand the ministry with many new opportunities to serve His servants. Your prayers and gifts make it possible to keep developing materials being used by people around the world to grow in God's Grace.

As the difficult economic situation continues, pray for us that we would know how to operate on the funds He provides through your gifts. He is able!

Once again, thank you for your continued prayer and financial support of this discipling ministry that touches so many.

Don Boesel

Board Chairman
CUPbearers/Gracestoration

God Kept His Promise to Eve and King David.

Luke records the genealogy of Mary (Lk. 3:23-38). Beginning

with Eli, Mary's father, it concludes *with "Adam, the son of God."* This identifies Mary as the choice of God's promise of bearing His promised "seed" to **Eve** whose seed would be the victor over Satan (Gen. 3:15).

Matthew gives the genealogy of Joseph (Matt. 1:1-16). Joseph as the husband of Mary was the legal father of Jesus. Joseph's lineage goes back to **King David** thereby establishing Jesus' legal right to the throne of David.

God Chose Unlikely Witnesses. God said, *"by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed"* (Matt. 18:16).

There was the supernatural angelic announcement of Jesus' birth to the lowly shepherds—the first witnesses. The shepherds announced his birth to all who would listen that night after visiting Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



There was also the witness of the Magi (Gentiles) who came to worship the *"King of the Jews."* The secular and the religious leaders of Israel were oblivious of His birth.

God Chose Godly Witnesses Proclaiming His Birth.
There was Simeon, *"and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him... He took Him* [Jesus] *into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 'Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, and the glory of Your people Israel'"* (Lk. 2:25-32).

At the temple there also was, *"a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher... At that very moment she came up and* began *giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem"* (Lk. 2:36-38).

God Chose Us!
How unlikely statistically was it that God would choose us out of the billions on planet earth? From a human point of view the odds are several million to one!

God had His purpose for us as His witnesses. The Apostle Peter proclaims, *"...so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1 Pet. 2:9).

Since God chose us unlikely ones to be His own and since Jesus Christ lives in each of us in our daily lives, we have the privilege to truly worship Him this Holy Christmas season!

HALLELUJAH!!!

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Discipled to Discipler

by David Hewett, Portland, Oregon

Bob was the discipler who discipled me and showed me how my relationship with Jesus Christ could be closer and richer than I had ever knew existed. It is very exciting to be discipled, enjoying a growing relationship with Christ. I have now found that is even more exciting to become a discipler! Now that I have grown closer to Christ (by being discipled), God has allowed me to encounter men and women who desire a relationship with Christ also, and who are looking for someone to disciple them.

One in particular is Mark. I was introduced to Mark about one year ago at a business function. We began meeting to discuss business and other issues. However, I was pleased when the subject of God and Christianity came up in our conversations. It was not long before our relationship with Christ was the primary topic of discussion. Mark and I have developed a great discipling relationship. We now look forward to our time together encouraging each other in Christ.

What joy it is to know that Christ is pleased to work *in, through* and *with* me to encourage Mark in his daily walk. This is the discipler's reward! *"I have no greater joy than this..."* (3 Jn. 4).

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!!



We pray that in the midst of gift giving, banqueting and celebrating this Christmas season, that we all will remember and worship the Lord Jesus Christ-- Emmanuel -- God with us!

Happy Birthday, Jesus!