

Comparing annunciations: John the baptist and Jesus

Zechariah is in the temple and sees the angel, Gabriel, who promises him and his wife a son: do not be afraid Zachariah, your prayer has been heard, your wife Elisabeth shall give birth to a son and you must call him John.

Zechariah asked the angel, **“How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”**

The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

Six months later..

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Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Comparing...

Zechariah

Man

Old

Priest

In the temple

In Jerusalem

Person of high status!

Mary

Girl

Young

At home

Nazareth in Galilea

In the province...

low status

Comparing...

Zechariah

- “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”
- Is silenced afterwards

Mary

- “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”
- Breaks out in song!

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his
servant.

From now on all generations will
call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has
done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those
who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds
with his arm;

he has scattered those who are
proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from
their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with
good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants
forever,

just as he promised our
ancestors.”

Women speaking

- Rare in ancient history; Greek philosophers or historians rarely mention what women have said
- Mary speaks with authority
- Raises her voice against rulers, rich and mighty men

Mary, Elisabeth and Hanna, mother of Samuël

- An engaged girl threatened by the shame of pregnancy
- Two married women downcast by the shame of barrenness..
- Mothers that have to let go of their sons...

Lucas 1:46-55

“My soul glorifies the Lord
47 and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior,
48 for he has been mindful
of the humble state of
his servant.
From now on all
generations will call me
blessed,
49 for the Mighty One
has done great things for
me—
holy is his name

1Samuël 2

“My heart rejoices in the LORD;
in the LORD my horn^[L] is lifted
high.
My mouth boasts over my
enemies,
for I delight in your deliverance.
2 “There is no one holy like the
LORD;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

His mercy extends to those who
fear him,
from generation to
generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty
deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are
proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers
from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with
good things

but has sent the rich away
empty.

“Do not keep talking so proudly
or let your mouth speak such
arrogance,
for the LORD is a God who knows,
and by him deeds are weighed.

⁴ “The bows of the warriors are
broken,

but those who stumbled are
armed with strength.

⁵ Those who were full hire
themselves out for food,

but those who were hungry are
hungry no more...

He has helped his servant
Israel,

remembering to be
merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his
descendants forever,
just as he promised our
ancestors.”

the LORD will judge the ends
of the earth.

“He will give strength to his
king
and exalt the horn of his
anointed.”

The song of Hannah came before but goes beyond..
Speaks of kings before there was a king in Israel
It speaks of all the earth!

The song of Mary...

Shows that Mary understood she was chosen by God
and that God His purpose was beyond her:

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

The song of Hannah takes us even further:

6 6 “The Lord brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.

7 The Lord sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.

8 He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes

and has them inherit a throne of honor. De grote
wisseltruc... God laat zijn Zoon sterven, wekt Hem op
uit de dood en geeft ook ons zijn leven terug... en
kondigt het meer dan 1000 jaar van tevoren aan

Three ways of understanding this:

- Luke makes Mary quote Hannah
- Mary knows her Bible, and quotes from it, building on the song of Hannah
- God knows his plans & the future, and gives words to Hannah -... 1100 before Christ
- Whatever you believe determines what you read...