ADVENT

AN ANGEL VISITS

LUKE 1:26-38

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Hope breaks through the darkness

Hope is hard to understand

Hope turns everything upside-down

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LUKE 1:26-27 NIV

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.

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DANIEL 8:16 NIV

While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. [16] And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

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DANIEL 9:20-21 NIV

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill—[21] while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

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DANIEL 9:22-24 NIV

He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. [23] As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

[24] "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place."

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“”

You cannot judge God by your calendar. God may appear to be slow, but he never forgets his promises. He may seem to be working very slowly or even to be forgetting his promises, but when his promises come true (and they will come true), they always burst the banks of what you imagined.

- Tim Keller

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LUKE 1:30-33 NIV

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."

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LUKE 1:35b NIV

"So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

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LUKE 1:28 NIV

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

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LUKE 1:28-29 NIV

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.

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LUKE 1:34 NIV

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

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LUKE 1:18 NIV

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

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LUKE 1:38 NIV

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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LUKE 1:51-53 NIV

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."

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LUKE 6:20b-22 NIV

20 "Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
21 Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
22 Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man."

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LUKE 19:10 NIV

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

“”

In the Christian story God comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down to the very roots and seabed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.

- C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

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