

# Christmas in Chronology

## Part I

I was asked this question: Which gospel we read so we can know the event of Jesus birth in sequence? That question inspired me to write this message and put the Scriptures in the following order:

**1- The Birth of Jesus Foretold:** “26 In the sixth month, 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 be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 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 the house of Jacob 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 upon 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 barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.” (Luke 1:26-38) The word of God says “26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph ...” (Luke 1:26-27) What he means here with “In the sixth month?” Before the angel of the Lord came to Mary he already went and appeared to Zechariah the priest and he announced to him that his wife Elizabeth the relative of Mary, will conceive a child, and indeed Elizabeth became pregnant “23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home. 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.” (Luke 1:23-25) Therefore when Elizabeth was pregnant in her sixth month the angel of the Lord went to Mary and announced to her the birth of Jesus.

**2- Mary Visits Elizabeth:** “39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!” (Luke 1:39-45) Mary was pledged to Marry Joseph, and it seem that from the above scripture that once she received the good news about Jesus birth, and that as well as Elizabeth is also pregnant in her six months, she moved from her place in *Nazareth, a town in Galilee* to a town in the hill country of Judea to visit her relative Elizabeth in order for her to confirm what she received from the angel. Her visit was fruitful and it

confirmed to her what she had received from the angel, as well as it confirmed to her that she is pregnant by a prophetic message from Elizabeth. And “*Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.*” (Luke 1:56) So almost likely Mary stayed there till Elizabeth was nine months pregnant and possibly Mary witnessed the birth of John.

**3- Joseph Decision to Marry Mary:** “18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:18-25) When Mary had arrived to her town in Nazareth coming back from Judea, she was more than three months pregnant, therefore there were obvious changes on her that showed she was pregnant. Now Joseph who was pledged to marry her came to know that and he thought to divorce her. Because those who were pledged to marry, are contracted in order to marry within a certain time. And some they say that even a legal document is obtained to prove that agreement. So when Joseph found out that she is pregnant he wanted to leave her, and in order for him to do that then he need to divorce her legally because in marriage they are contracted on document as married and cannot leave her without a certificate of divorce. At this time when Joseph about to take his action God interfered and the angel announced to Joseph that Mary his wife is *conceived from the Holy Spirit* and will give birth to a son whom he will name Jesus *because he will save his people from their sins*. Mary when she received the good news from the angel she trusted God that He will be the one to speak to Joseph and He will arrange everything to come true. Mary and Joseph were not meeting each other before the appointed day when the angel spoke to Joseph because they were obedient to the word of God. If they were meeting before marriage how it will be proved to others around them that she is *conceived from the Holy Spirit* and not by a man. The encouraging message came in a dream that God gave to Joseph, in accordance to God’s promise in *Isaiah 7:14* “*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*” Had helped Joseph to change his mind and obeyed the Lord. Therefore immediately “*When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.*” (Matthew 1:24) This where the time that Joseph and Mary they had their marriage ceremony. They got married but Joseph slept and united with her only after the birth of her first son.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Every time you look intently into the word of God you will discover more of the truth of God’s word that makes you understand life well and give you more practical application how to obey God and walk in His ways as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your blessed word of yours to me. Lord “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” (Psalms 119:18) Give me also more insight in all what I had received from your word and to apply in my life so I will continue to be effective in my service and ministry unto you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*