

## **Gabriel's Seven Assertions about Jesus**

The Christmas Story with a Focus on Gabriel's Announcement to Mary

### **Gabriel's Seven Assertions**

- **Background Text:**
- The Christmas Story – According to Luke
- **Luke 1:5 – 2:40**
- Gabriel's Seven Assertions about Jesus
- **Luke 1:30-33**
  
- Consider this observation by John Stott:
- ***"Many people are rejecting our gospel today not because they perceive it to be false, but because they perceive it to be trivial."***
- In reality, the Gospel – the Good News about Jesus – is not false, so we are wise not to reject it.
- The Gospel is also anything but trivial.
- It is nothing less than the truth around which we need to completely order our lives.

### **The Seven Assertions**

1. You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son.
2. [You] shall call His name Jesus.
3. He will be great.
4. He will be called the Son of the Highest.
5. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.
6. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.
7. Of His kingdom there will be no end.

### **The First Four Have Come to Pass**

1. You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son.
  - **Luke 2:4-7**
2. [You] shall call His name Jesus.
  - **Luke 2:21**
3. He will be great.
  - **Luke 7:11-17**
4. He will be called the Son of the Highest.
  - **Luke 3:21-22**
  - **Luke 4:40-41**

### **The Remaining Three Have Not**

5. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.
  6. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.
  7. Of His kingdom there will be no end.
- *Story from a pastor waiting in a checkout line:*
    - *Younger Man: They ought to kill the guy that invented Christmas.*
    - *Older Woman: They did.*
  - Precisely because of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension – and the resulting end of His earthly ministry – these three assertions still have not come to pass.
  - This is despite the fact that each of these items is the subject of extensive prophecy in both the Old and New Testaments.
  - We conclude then, that they await a future fulfillment.
  - The Gospel is not only about the past (as in Christmas and Easter) but about the future.
  - That future is about Jesus who reigns forever.
  - It is about Israel, the entire world and every last person who has ever lived.
  - It is also about you and me – personally.
  - The eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful God of uncompromised holiness, who is always and everywhere present, is also the God of saving grace.
  - This is the underlying message of Christmas.
  - God the Son took on the nature and form of a man – a real human being just like us.
  - He did this to rescue us from sin and death.
  - What we do with Jesus is, therefore, not trivial, but is in fact the most important decision we will ever have to make.

### **How should we respond?**

#### **1. Unseal the Book**

- See **Revelation 22:10**
- The truth about Jesus is information that the world is literally dying to hear.
- As the ones who hold that information, it is only fitting that we make it known.
- Sometimes this means differentiating the Jesus that people think they already know from the Jesus who actually is.

#### **2. Completely Trust in Jesus**

- Admit your sin to God, and your complete lack of power to save yourself through your looks, your brains – or any raw ability of your own to live a life holy enough to impress a holy God.
- See Christ as God with a human face – the Savior who died for you.
- Turn from all your sins, including the self-reliance that may be causing you to keep God at what you consider to be a safe distance.

### **3. Live Like You Know the Lord**

- See **2 Peter 3:10-14**
- If the world sees Christianity as something trivial (and it does), it may in part be due to our failure to live as if we believe it.
- As Christians, we know Jesus Christ the Savior of the world, the King of Kings, the literal source of all life and goodness.
- We should not treat our very connection to ultimate reality with careless indifference.

### **4. Eagerly Wait for His Coming**

- See **Mark 13:32-37**
- See **Acts 1:9-11**
- Jesus is coming back – and that is not trivial.

### **Conclusions:**

- The time is coming when Gabriel's words will cease to be predictions or prophecies.
- At that time they will become the present realities that we are either immersed in or excluded from – eternally.
- The time to choose is now.
- We can best express that choice in a prayer.

### **A Sample Prayer**

- Dear Lord Jesus,
- I know that I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness.
- I believe that You died for my sins when You died on the cross.
- I believe You rose from the dead.
- I want to turn away from my sins and follow You.
- I invite You to come into my life.
- I trust You as My Savior and respect You as my Lord.
- Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and help me to be your disciple.
- Thank You Lord, for hearing my prayer. Amen.

### **Merry Christmas!**

See you next year!