

Lesson 2 | December 12, 2021

Jesus' Birth Announced and Anticipated

Study Text: Luke 1:26–56

Central Truth: Christians rejoice in the birth of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

Key Verse: Luke 1:31

Thou [Mary] shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus (KJV).

You [Mary] will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students should comprehend the prophecies and anticipation that surrounded the coming of the Messiah.
- Students should reflect on the significance of Mary's obedience in the culture of the time.
- Students should worship God amid His call for surrender and obedience.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: One of the most exciting things that can happen to a family is welcoming a new baby into the home. Such an event is preceded by great anticipation. Today, we look at the anticipation that surrounded the welcoming of the Son of God to earth. **But this was not an event that had been planned for a few months. On the contrary, it had been planned from the foundation of the world, in eternity past (Revelation 13:8).** That which had been anticipated by God's people for centuries was coming to pass, and it was announced to a young girl in Nazareth.

[Rev 13:8 KJV] 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Opening Activity—Important Announcements

Ask: What different types of announcements can you think of? (Write the answers on the board, and ask your class to help you rank them according to importance.)

Say: None of us has received an announcement that reaches the magnitude of the announcement Mary received from the angel Gabriel. Yet that announcement has impacted every one of our lives because it dealt with the coming of Jesus, who died on the cross for our salvation. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Today's lesson examines an important time in the life of a major figure in the New Testament and the story of Jesus: Mary. Some Christians, often out of theological concerns, deny Mary the respect that is due to her. We note that Mary was selected

from among all women who have ever lived to give birth to and raise God's Son. Christians can learn a great deal from her example. This lesson examines Mary's response to the invitation from God to be the earthly mother of Jesus and reminds us that we are to praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.

Unlike John's father, Mary did question but not from doubt.

Part 1—The Annunciation to Mary Gabriel's Appearance

Luke 1:26–27

[Luk 1:26-27 KJV] 26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name [was] Mary.

Say: Gabriel's appearance to Mary was not the first announcement of the coming of the Messiah. For centuries, the people of Israel had anticipated His coming, as it had been prophesied throughout the Old Testament. However, their expectations at the time of Gabriel's announcement were influenced by the oppression of the Roman Empire upon them. They failed to see many of the prophecies being fulfilled before their eyes because of their preconceived notions about the Messiah. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Luke carefully detailed the events that led up to the birth of Jesus. **Just six months after the angel Gabriel had appeared to Zechariah (see Luke 1:19), he appeared to Mary (Luke 1:26–27). Mary lived in Nazareth, a relatively obscure village in the first century. No major roads ran through it. It appears there was a saying around the area that denigrated the village: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (see John 1:46, NLT).**

Mary's residence in this small town was not by chance. The name Nazareth comes from a Hebrew word that means "branch." Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 11:1 indicates that Jesus would come from the branch of Jesse. Many scholars link Isaiah to the understanding that the Messiah would be called a Nazarene (see Matthew 2:23). Mary's residence—and Jesus' childhood in Nazareth—were components in the fulfillment of this prophecy.

The Bible teaches that Mary was a virgin at the time of Gabriel's visit, fulfilling another prophecy from Isaiah (7:14; Luke 1:27). There has been debate as to the meaning of the word "virgin" in Isaiah. (Some say it referred to a young woman in Isaiah's time as well as made future reference to the Messiah.) **Matthew's use of Isaiah 7:14 settles any doubts that it means Mary had not had sexual relations (see Matthew 1:18–**

25). Mary's declaration that she was still a virgin (Luke 1:34) and Joseph's reaction to the news of Mary's pregnancy (Matthew 1:18–25) bear this out.

[Mat 1:18-25 KJV] 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Luke described Mary as a woman espoused or pledged to be married (Luke 1:27). This pledge was more binding in the first century Hebrew culture than engagement is in most Western cultures today. **The key component of the pledge was the payment of a dowry to the parents of the bride. This could be paid in money or in personal service. Once the financial arrangements had been made, a blessing over the union was requested from God. This arrangement was legally binding, so to back out of it meant that a formal contract would have to be nullified.**

There was generally a period of time (a year or two) before the official marriage would take place, with the consummation of the marriage. A good example of this can be seen in the seven-year waiting period in the marriage of Jacob and both Leah and Rachel (see Genesis 29). Mary and Joseph were in this waiting period when Gabriel appeared to Mary.

Luke identified Mary's espoused husband, Joseph, as part of the line of David (1:27). This information is crucial because the Old Testament prophets were clear that the Messiah would come from the line of David.

Resource Packet Item 1: Title

Distribute the work sheet and give students a few minutes to match up the prophecies with their fulfillment. To add interest, if it will work with your class, make it a race and give a small prize to the person who correctly matches all of them first.

Discuss

? How many Old Testament prophecies can you name that speak to the birth of Christ?

? If you have a map in your classroom or in your Bibles, find the town of Nazareth. What facts do we know about Nazareth?

Gabriel's Message

Luke 1:28–33

[Luk 1:28-33 KJV] 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, [thou that art] highly favoured, the Lord [is] with thee: blessed [art] thou among women. 29 And when she saw [him], she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. ‘

[Eph 3:3-6, 9-11 NLT] 3 As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. 4 As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. 5 God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. 6 And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. ...

9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. 10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Say: Mary was a young Jewish woman who was soon to be married when the angel Gabriel appeared to her. In his message to Mary, the angel informed her that her relative, Elizabeth, had conceived in her old age. **Just as Elizabeth was pregnant when it seemed impossible, God was certainly performing and fulfilling what He had promised to Mary.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Gabriel approached Mary with a formal greeting, and Mary was startled, not only by the angelic appearance but also by the words that he spoke (Luke 1:28–29). **She wondered what the angel meant when he identified her as “favored woman” (verse 28, NLT). Mary understood her culture and would have been aware that the phrase “the Lord is with you” was often given as assurance when a difficult task was about to be given. She surely remembered the stories of how heavenly messengers had been sent to Abraham, Jacob, Samuel, and many other leaders of the past. What could God want of a young girl that was so important He would send an angel to her? Mary likely surmised that whatever was going to take place would be life changing.**

Gabriel soothed Mary’s fears (verse 30), assuring her that she had found favor with God. The angel had not come to condemn Mary, but rather to commend her. Out of all the women in the world, God had chosen her to accomplish a task that would impact all humanity (verse 31). Gabriel told her that she would have a son and His name would be Jesus. The name “Jesus” is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means “the Lord is salvation.”

Gabriel also told Mary that her Son would be called “the Son of the Most High” (verse 32, NLT). **Jesus would be the long-awaited Messiah who would be given the throne of David (verse 32). The Jewish people had been waiting for this Messiah since the destruction of Judah by the Babylonians (see Jeremiah 23:1–6).**

[Jer 23:3-6 NLT] 3 But I will gather together the remnant of my flock from the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their own sheepfold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number. 4 Then I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, the LORD, have spoken! **5 "For the time is coming," says the LORD, "when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. 6 And this will be his name: 'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.' In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety.**

Finally, Gabriel stated that the Messiah’s kingdom will never come to an end. This is likely a reference to Daniel’s prophecies found in 2:44 and 7:13–14.

[Dan 2:44 KJV] 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

[Dan 7:13-14 KJV] 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his

dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed.

It is very possible Mary had previously prayed on many occasions for God to send the Messiah to assist her people. How surprised she must have been to realize that she would be the instrument God would use to fulfill her own prayers!

Discuss

? How do you think Mary might have felt as she first heard the greetings of Gabriel? How might you have felt in a situation like that?

? Describe a time when God used you to assist in answering the prayers of a fellow believer.

Part 2—Mary Visits Elizabeth

The Son of the Most High

Luke 1:34–38

[Luk 1:34-38 KJV] 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Say: Gabriel’s announcement to Mary went far beyond telling her that she would bear a child. The child she would bear would be the Son of the Most High God. When we become parents, we take on a tremendous responsibility to raise our children and teach them to know and love God. But **imagine the responsibility of nurturing and caring for the very Son of God.** Mary’s life changed forever after this visit from the angel Gabriel. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Gabriel’s message was profound: the baby that Mary would deliver would be the “Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” (verses 32–33, NLT). Such designations were and are reserved for God himself. Mary would bear the divine One. In Christ is found all the power and authority of divinity, for He is divine. He is the Son of God (verse 35). What a staggering message this was for her.

It is not clear if Mary fully understood the impact of the angel's statement, but she clearly understood its significance. Mary responded to Gabriel that she could not be pregnant; she had never had sexual relations with any man before. It is likely that other thoughts were running through Mary's mind as well. What would Joseph think? How would she be treated when others found out? Why her? How could this be? All of these considerations would have been enough for many people to shout "No!" Fortunately, Mary continued to listen to Gabriel with an open heart.

The angel explained how Mary would conceive (verse 35). The Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High would "overshadow" her. This description of the Holy Spirit's work is important because the pagans taught that the gods mated with humans. But Jesus' conception was instead the result of the miraculous activity of the Spirit. And Jesus would be "holy." This identifies Him as being completely God while living as a human being, resulting in His being the only one who could ever claim to be both God and human.

The word translated "overshadow" is used at Jesus' transfiguration when a bright cloud overshadowed the three disciples (see Matthew 17:5). That cloud was an outward manifestation of God's presence and glory. At the moment of conception, Mary would be overshadowed by the unseen but gloriously real presence of the Most High. Her Child would be God in the flesh. Through this miraculous birth would come the One called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant and in her sixth month (verse 36). Apparently Mary had not heard of Elizabeth's pregnancy. And so, **Gabriel was letting Mary know that "with God nothing shall be impossible" (verse 37, KJV). A child born to a woman well past child-bearing years and a child born of a virgin are both miraculous births. God is not limited by the natural. And so Mary, a woman of great faith, accepted this high calling of God (verse 38).**

There are times in our walk with God when He will ask us to do difficult tasks that seem beyond our capacity to accept. **The first step in submission is not to deny the sacrifices of Kingdom tasks, but to follow God's purpose.**

Resource Packet Item 2: Mary's Character

Distribute the work sheet and allow a few minutes for students to work on it individually, or suggest that they take it home for reflection during their personal devotional time this week.

Discuss

? Describe why it is significant that verse 35 says the Holy Spirit would come upon Mary?

? What are some ways your life is or has been impacted by the work of the Holy Spirit?

Elizabeth Blesses Mary

Luke 1:39–45

[Luk 1:39-45 KJV] 39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; 40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed [art] thou among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of thy womb. 43 And whence [is] this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 And blessed [is] she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Say: Scripture tells us that Mary went to see Elizabeth, of whom Gabriel had spoken. It is likely that Mary felt that she and Elizabeth could relate to one another because of their relationship as cousins as well as the supernatural nature of both of their pregnancies. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

A few days later, Mary decided to go see her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:40). Two important events occurred when Mary and Elizabeth met (verse 41). First, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy at Mary's greeting. Second, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And so, again we see the Holy Spirit appear in John the Baptist's story.

Elizabeth declared that Mary was blessed by God, and so was her Child (verses 42–45). Mary had not yet told Elizabeth of her experience with Gabriel and the Holy Spirit. Yet in that instant the Spirit gave at least partial knowledge to Elizabeth of what had happened concerning the Messiah's impending birth. So through Elizabeth's prophetic expressions, the Holy Spirit was confirming the missions of both John the Baptist and Jesus.

Discuss

? Take a moment to tell the class about something great God has done in your life recently.

? Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of both Mary and Elizabeth during this time.

Part 3—The Magnificat of Mary Mary Praises God for Her Privilege

Luke 1:46–49

[Luk 1:46-49 KJV] 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy [is] his name.

Say: Upon hearing Elizabeth’s words, Mary’s first reaction was to praise God. Her humility is apparent in Luke 1:48 as she referred to herself as a “lowly servant girl” (NLT) or a “handmaiden” (KJV). (Share your highlights from the following text.)

After Elizabeth’s prophetic statement, Mary broke out in praise to God (Luke 1:46–47). **This expression of praise has come to be known as “The Magnificat” because magnificat is the first word of the Latin translation of this passage. (The word means “magnifies;” in this case it speaks to magnifying God.)** God, of course, knew Mary’s lowly station in life, and Mary rejoiced that because of what God did through her, future generations would call her blessed, recognizing she had been chosen by God to receive such a wonderful privilege (verses 48–49). **Clearly, Mary did not make her claim in a prideful manner, but rather in a state of amazement. She recognized her lowly state, understanding that she had done nothing to deserve the honor that had been given to her. Any acclaim that would come to her was a direct result of what the Mighty and Holy One had done for her.**

Like Mary, Christians today need to point people to God even as we praise Him for what He does in and through us. **Humble thanksgiving will remove any focus from ourselves and direct all the glory to God—the One who alone is worthy to be praised.**

Discuss

? What lessons for your life can you draw from Mary’s example?

? To what extent are praise and worship a part of your prayer life? To what degree might you need to increase your focus on praise, and why?

Mary Prophesies God’s Blessings to His People

Luke 1:50–55

[Luk 1:50-56 KJV] 50 And his mercy [is] on them that fear him from generation to generation. 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He hath put down the mighty from [their] seats, and exalted them of low degree. 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. 54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in

remembrance of [his] mercy; 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. 56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Say: As a devout Jew, Mary had a good understanding of the work of God among the people of Israel in the Old Testament, and she praised Him for His blessings on His chosen people. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The next portion of Mary’s song was a prophetic word concerning the blessings the Messiah would bring to the Jewish people (Luke 1:50–55). She recognized that what was happening to her was but part of a great plan that would bring God’s mercy to her and all who would fear Him (verse 50). Then Mary gave honor to God for His wisdom and power (verses 51–53). God would scatter the proud, bring down leaders, and reject the rich, while lifting the humble and feeding the hungry.

Mary also worshiped God for His faithfulness to Israel (verses 54–55). **Through the Messiah, God would continue to bless and protect His people, just as He had done throughout their history. God would remember Abraham and the covenant He established with him.**

Mary’s obedience played a central role in bringing the Messiah into the world. **This young woman had faith to place her trust in God and make choices that radically changed her quiet life. And by the grace of God, history was changed forever.** Mary is a wonderful example of the dedication, purity, and humility that ought to embody a person living in service to God.

Resource Packet Item 3: Your Magnificat

Distribute the work sheet and give students a few minutes to respond in class, or suggest that they take the sheet home and use it in a time of praise in their personal devotions.

Discuss

? Describe how the world has been affected by Mary’s obedience.?

? How might the world around you be affected by your obedience to God?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: God chose the perfect time and the perfect way to send His Son into the world. Gabriel’s announcement to Mary was one that would change the world—and change our lives. He calls us to live in obedience and carry that message to everyone around us.

Living It Out Ministry in Action

- Find someone with whom you can praise God and rejoice together as Mary and Elizabeth did.
- As you anticipate Christmas, share the reason for that anticipation with an unbeliever.
- Pray that God will use you this Christmas season to show Him to unsaved family and friends.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Messiah Promised Through the Woman.
Genesis 3:13–15

[Gen 3:13-15 KJV] 13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What [is] this [that] thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Tuesday:

Descendant of King David's House.
2 Samuel 7:8–16

[2Sa 7:8-16 KJV] 8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great [men] that [are] in the earth. 10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, 11 And as since the time that I commanded judges [to be] over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. 12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took [it] from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

Wednesday:

Birth of Immanuel Foretold.
Isaiah 7:10–14

[Isa 7:10-14 KJV] 10 Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. 13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; [Is it] a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Thursday:

Immanuel Shall Save His People.

Matthew 1:18–23

[Mat 1:18-23 KJV] 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Friday:

Take the Things of God to Heart.

Luke 2:14–20

[Luk 2:14-20 KJV] 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen [it], they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard [it] wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered [them] in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Saturday:

The Fullness of Time.

Galatians 4:1–4

[Gal 4:1-4 KJV] 1 Now I say, [That] the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,