

An Angel Brings Good News to Mary

Mary lived near the temple until she was fourteen years old. She was always quiet and at peace with herself and others. Mary learned all the things that girls her age were taught at that time. Most of all she liked to read the ancient holy books telling the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, and all the prophets. She read about what had happened to her people and what the prophets said of the Savior who would come some day. Mary often wondered when the Savior would come.

When Mary was fourteen years old she had to leave the temple. By that time both Joachim and Anna were dead and Mary had no home to which she could go. The priests of the temple found an old man who was a relative of Mary's. His name was Joseph, and he worked as a carpenter. The priests asked Joseph to take Mary into his home and look after her. Joseph's wife had died long before this time, and he was very happy to receive Mary.

In Joseph's home Mary continued her quiet and peaceful life. Working, reading, and praying, she made everything around her peaceful and happy.

One day in early spring, while she was all by herself reading and praying, she suddenly saw an angel standing before her. The angel spoke, saying: "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among women.

When Mary saw the angel, she was troubled. She wondered why he had greeted her in such a strange way. But the angel said to her: "Fear not, Mary, God has chosen you. You shall have a Son, and you shall call Him Jesus. (Jesus means Savior.) He shall be great and shall be called the Son of God, and His kingdom shall have no end."

"How will this be when I am not even married?" Mary questioned.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the strength of God will be with you," answered the angel. "Look at your cousin

Elizabeth, who is old. She is also going to have a son. Nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary said: " I am the servant of God. Let everything be as you say."

**God Gives Zechariah and Elizabeth a Son*

The angel went away, and Mary began to wait for the Son that the angel had promised her. She went to visit with her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth saw her, she greeted her with strange words as the angel had done: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

The news that Mary received was the greatest news that had ever been given: the news that God Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ, would come on earth to live with us. Every year, early in the spring, we remember the day when Mary received the great news. Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her own house.