***God Chose Mary: She Was Highly Favored***

**Mary Was Troubled and Afraid! (From David Sliker)**

It may have been because there was no earthly reason for one of the archangels of the Most High God to appear before her and address her in such a manner. As the story unfolds, this contrast between the regal and majestic splendor of who is sent to Elizabeth and Mary compared with their own lowliness of stature will continue to be a key theme of this story, and a sign of how the course of human affairs will change forever.

Who was Mary in the scheme of things in the midst of Israel, and Israel’s unfolding story? Who was Mary in the midst of the sprawling world of the Roman Empire, and the might of Caesars, his mighty armies, and scheming politicians and kings who governed the affairs of men? Yet God chose this village girl to be the womb where the Savior King of the world will be held, to be born on earth for such a time as then. The girl who carried the King in her womb, what is that like?

“But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”  
Luke 1: 29-33

**What is it Like to be Favored of God?**

”’Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”  
Matthew 1:23 NKJV

”And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’“  
Luke 1:28 NKJV

One of the most pivotal moments in human history involves the unlikeliest and obscure women of that era of history.   
  
  
This is a powerful statement about what God esteems and who God chooses, which then defines what truly matters in our lives and where our dignity and beauty is found. The simplest, most humble life of hidden faith and sincere love is the life that attracts the presence and power of our Father in Heaven.

Mary is “she who believed” (v. 45) and therefore she is highly favored and blessed among women (v. 28). It is the simple faith of humble women that invites the seismic activity of a Holy God, who seeks to condescend to act on our behalf in His great mercy.

”’For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”  
Isaiah 55:8-13 NKJV

So is the bride of Christ today. She is highly favored! She stands ready to be married to the Lamb of God, WHO takes away the sin of the world. The bride of Christ carries the “Cry” of Maranatha in unison with Holy Spirit. Together, they cry the sound to usher His return to mark the restoration of the earth of God forever.

”And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.“  
Revelation 21:3, 9-11 NKJV

(To be continued.)