COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Study Guide

He Will Be Great

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Major Points

1. **God took the initiative to send His Son into the world at the right time, breaking 400 years of prophetic silence to fulfill His promise.**
   Luke 1:26-27

2. **God deliberately chose ordinary, unremarkable people — Mary and Joseph in obscure Nazareth — to accomplish His extraordinary purposes.**
   Romans 3:23

3. **We find favor with God not through our own merit but solely through the person and work of Jesus Christ.**
   1 John 4:19

4. **Jesus is the eternal King promised to David whose kingdom will have no end, unlike every earthly kingdom that will eventually crumble.**
   2 Samuel 7:12-13

5. **Nothing is impossible with God — the virgin birth demonstrates that God accomplishes what no human effort can, and He calls us to respond in servant-hearted faith like Mary.**
   Luke 1:37

Key Quotes

> *And by that I mean faithful, unshakably faithful, unshakably good.*
> at 0:34

> *The mystery has never been, why isn't God doing more? The mystery is always, why did God love us in the first place?*
> at 9:36

> *What made her special was not who she was in their social order, or in her age, or her wisdom, or even in her righteousness. What made her special was that God had created her newer before he formed her in her mother's womb, and that he chose her.*
> at 12:15

> *If you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you have received the salvation that cannot be taken from you. It cannot be stolen from you. It cannot be ripped out. You can't rip yourself out. It's Christ.*
> at 22:19

> *His kingdom will have no end. I love that so much.*
> at 28:45

> *Nothing is impossible with God. If He can impregnate a young woman, with His Son that He might save the world through His Son. Can He not deliver us, forgive us, save us, protect us, provide for us?*
> at 39:52

> *I am the Lord's servant. So what you want, God, is what I do.*
> at 41:13

Discussion Questions

1. The speaker describes 400 years of prophetic silence before Gabriel's announcement. How do you personally handle seasons when God seems silent, and what does this passage teach about God's faithfulness during those times?

2. Mary was an ordinary young woman in an insignificant village, yet God chose her for an extraordinary purpose. In what ways do you struggle to believe God wants to use you, and how does Mary's story challenge that?

3. The angel told Mary 'Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.' How does understanding that God's favor comes through Christ — not our own merit — change the way you approach God daily?

4. The sermon contrasts earthly kingdoms (houses, health, nations) with Christ's eternal kingdom that will have no end. What 'kingdoms' are you most tempted to invest in, and how does the permanence of Christ's kingdom reorder your priorities?

5. Mary responded with 'I am the Lord's servant — may it happen to me as you have said.' What would it look like for you to offer that same surrender to God regarding a specific situation you are facing right now?

Word Studies

κεχαριτωμένη
kecharitomene

Greek

One who has been graced or highly favored; a perfect passive participle indicating that God has already bestowed grace upon the recipient. Used by Gabriel to address Mary, emphasizing that her favored status is entirely God's initiative, not her own achievement.

Usage: 2 times (Luke 1:28; Ephesians 1:6 uses the related verb charitoo)

μέγας
megas

Greek

Great, large, mighty. When applied to Jesus in Luke 1:32 ('He will be great'), it denotes supreme greatness in dignity, authority, and power — not merely human greatness but the divine greatness of the Son of the Most High.

Usage: Over 190 times in the New Testament

επισκιάζω
episkiazo

Greek

To overshadow, to envelop. Used in Luke 1:35 of the Most High overshadowing Mary. The word echoes the Shekinah glory cloud that overshadowed the tabernacle (Exodus 40:35 LXX), indicating God's powerful, personal presence accomplishing the miraculous conception.

Usage: 5 times (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 1:35; Luke 9:34; Acts 5:15)

Cross References

Isaiah 7:14
The original messianic prophecy that a virgin would conceive and bear a son called Immanuel ('God with us'), directly fulfilled in Gabriel's announcement to Mary.

Galatians 4:4-5
Paul declares that 'when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,' confirming the sermon's emphasis that God chose the exact right moment to send Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29
God chose the foolish, weak, and lowly things of the world to shame the wise and strong — directly paralleling the sermon's point that God chose ordinary Mary in obscure Nazareth.

Daniel 2:44-45
The vision of the rock cut without hands that destroys all earthly kingdoms and establishes God's eternal kingdom — the passage the speaker references when describing Christ's unending reign.

Hebrews 11:1
The definition of faith as 'the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,' connecting to Mary's faith response of trusting God's word despite the physical impossibility.

Further Reading

- **The Magnificat: How Mary's Song Changed the World**
  by Carl McColman
- **Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers**
  by Dane Ortlund
- **The Jesus I Never Knew**
  by Philip Yancey

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Luke 1:26-38	Read Aloud	1:00	*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by ...*
Romans 3:23	Referenced	11:10	*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of...*
1 John 4:19	Referenced	17:00	*We love because he first loved us.*
1 John 1:8	Referenced	23:50	*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, an...*
Matthew 1:21	Referenced	29:10	*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name J...*
2 Samuel 7:12-13	Referenced	30:10	*When your days are complete and you lie down with ...*
Philippians 2:6-7	Referenced	35:55	*Who, although he existed in the form of God, did n...*
Psalm 8:4	Referenced	18:20	*What is man that you are mindful of him, and the s...*