

The Advent Narratives

Luke 1, 2:1-40

- 1) Zechariah's response to Gabriel (1:18) is almost identical to Mary's (1:34). Why did Mary not receive as stern a rebuke as Zechariah?
- 2) What can we infer about what Mary was like as a person from these chapters?
- 3) Repeat question 2 for Joseph (it will help to read Mt 1:18-24)?
- 4) In case not covered in questions 2 & 3, what thoughts might have been going through Mary and Joseph's minds during these times?
- 5) What aspects of Jesus' ministry are foreshadowed in the Magnificat (1:46-55)?
- 6) What is the significance of the virgin birth? Does it
 - a) establish Christ's divinity?
 - b) establish Christ's sinlessness?
 - c) Establish anything else?
- 7) Is there significance to the fact that the shepherds were the first to hear the news of Jesus' arrival?

BONUS SECTION I: THE VISITATION OF THE MAGI

- 8) What is a magi? (magus? magum? magoo?) How did these pagans know the star they had seen was that of "the one who has been born king of the Jews?"
- 9) How old was Jesus at the time the magi came?

BONUS SECTION II

- 10) When did Jesus realize His significance?