

CRAWFORD
BROADCASTING
COMPANY



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THE STAND
CHRISTMAS
THE WOMEN

ELIZABETH. Wife of the priest Zacharias. Faithful, devoted, dedicated to the things of God. Zacharias was fortunate to have married her.

The Scriptures tell us that she was old and her womb barren. She had wanted more than anything to have a child, as Zacharias did. But, even though she was barren, she was still faithful, trusting and believing that God would have her conceive and bear a child.

Then came the angel Gabriel and announced to Zacharias that Elizabeth would bear son and call him John. Though old and barren, probably beyond normal child bearing age, Elizabeth conceived, as the angel of God had promised, and bore a son, John. John The Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord.

The prayer and praise of Elizabeth were indeed special and loving. Blessed was her God for he took away her shame and allowed her to bear a son, and a very special one at that. She praised her God for being faithful, for fulfilling a promise and for making her life complete. She was a special woman.

While John grew in the womb, Mary came to visit Elizabeth. Scriptures tell us that Elizabeth's baby sensed the incredible presence of Mary and the babe within, and the baby John leaped for joy. In the womb, mind you. They were even then kindred spirits, those babes, and they would set about to change the world. What an incredible partnership.

Elizabeth welcomed Mary the mother of Jesus with open arms and loving arms. Elizabeth knew her niece was extremely special and though older and senior, Elizabeth told Mary:

“You are favored by God above all other women!”

True it was for the holy conception within her would produce Jesus the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

When Gabriel announced the news to Mary, she doubted like Zacharias. She asked how she could possible conceive and bear a child when she was a virgin. She was told that she would be overcome by the Holy Spirit and in her would grow the Babe of Bethlehem, the child Jesus. The power of God. **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.**

Though doubting, Mary was trusting. She said:

“I am the Lord's servant.”

I will do what is required and how kind the Lord is to me, allowing me to be the instrument of His very special revelation and gift to all mankind for Mary knew that nothing was impossible with God, nothing.

Hear then the words of Mary, her SONG OF PRAISE, the magnificent Magnificat:

My soul does magnify the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.

She praised and she rejoiced in God as we should at this magnificent season:

For He has regarded the lowest state of His handmaiden. For behold from now on, all generations shall call me Blessed.

God works in special ways with those who are humble and follow, follow obediently, His will. For there are none too lowly that God can not use. Indeed, the world ever since has called this handmaiden Blessed.

For He that is mighty has done to me great things and Holy is His name. His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.

The holy creator of the universe had indeed done great things, indeed the greatest gift to mankind, the birth through Mary of Jesus Christ.

He has shown strength with His arm. He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree.

Even as God exalts the humble, so He scatters the so-called wisdom of the proud and deals aggressively with the deceit, the egotism in their hearts. The first shall be last.

He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to the fathers, to Abraham, and to Abraham's seed forevermore. Amen.

What a magnificent hymn of praise from a humble women, a handmaiden of the Lord, totally devoted to His purpose, believing and trusting in His promise and knowing in her heart that nothing is impossible with God, nothing.

How wonderful then the miraculous birth of John The Baptist. A barren woman beyond child bearing years conceived. A virgin woman never having known a man conceived. There came John The Baptist, a man of the desert, rugged, fearless, a champion for God for Elizabeth. There came a man like no other to change the world, the Son of God from Mary. Two incredible conceptions, births, and sons turned to me who changed the world and the lives within.

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all men and all women. As we think how Jesus and John came, as for them so with us:

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!