

Fear and Joy

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

One of the saddest, strangest endings to a book of the Bible: 2 Kings

- Saddest: Israel is off to exile.
 - And what about the promise to David about his everlasting kingship? (2 Sam 7:13, 16)
- Strangest: see the final paragraph!!? (2 Kings 25:27-30)
 - What archaeologists found in Babylon...

Fast forward nearly 600 years... to a young woman named Mary. (Luke 1:26-33)

- “Do not be afraid.” Fear not. (1:30)
- How can Mary process all of this at once? Answer: she can’t!
 - The old promise to David fulfilled (1:32)
 - *Wut?* (1:33)

A song of joy: *The Magnificat* (1:46-55)

- Joy: “My spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior” (1:47)
- Fear: “And his **mercy** is for those who **fear** him” (1:50)

To the Lord’s Supper, to enjoy mercy!

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Nearly 600 years elapsed from the beginning of the exile (and no king) to Mary receiving the word that she will give birth to the everlasting King of Israel. This means that many generations of faithful Jews spent their entire lives *waiting*. How is this relevant to you/us today?
2. Mary’s response in Luke 1:38 is notable. What about it is exemplary for you?
3. Joy: Christmas is a time of rejoicing, but in what specifically? Mary reminds us in Luke 1:47. How can you keep this truth front and center this Christmas season?