

11-27-22

**Christmas Characters: Mary**  
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### **Three Truths About God's Timing**

#### **Truth #1: God is always right on time**

**Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT):** But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

**2 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT):** But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

#### **Truth #2: God's timing is rarely convenient**

**Luke 1:26-27 (NIV):** In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

**Luke 1:28-29 (NIV):** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

**Luke 1:30-33 (NIV):** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

#### **Truth #3: God reveals details over time, not all at once**

**Luke 1:34-37 (NIV):** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

**Takeaway: Trust his timing**

**Luke 1:38 (NIV):** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."  
Then the angel left her.