



**Haven Community Church
Pastor Jack D. Cohen – December 13, 2009**

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

– Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

Christmas is...Family Matters

I. Family memories are...

- Filled with images
- Filled with surprises
- Filled with emotions
- Filled with senses

II. High cost of family

• Self-Sacrifice

¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."
– Matthew 1:19-20 (NIV)

• Trust of God

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁴But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."
– Matthew 1:24 (NIV)

• Welcoming acceptance

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."
– Luke 1:38 (NIV)

III. Family values to celebrate this Christmas

"Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."
– 1 Peter 1:21 (NIV)

• We believe together

- God raised Jesus from the dead
- Faith & hope our encouraged

²²Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."
– 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

• We behave together

- Holy living
- 1) Attentive 2) Accountable 3) Agape

²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."
– 1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

• We belong together

- For now
- For eternity

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."

– Burton Hillis