



Two Unlikely Births
Luke 1:1-38

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What will we learn?

- ❖ The New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old Testament.
- ❖ God answers prayer.
- ❖ Unbelief has consequences.
- ❖ “No word from God will ever fail.”
- ❖ The Bible is a reliable historical document.



What will we learn?

- ❖ God's preferences are not the same as the culture's preferences.
- ❖ Jesus and his followers identify with the marginalized.
- ❖ Mary teaches all of us how to pray.



Your response:

- ❖ Gabriel said, “No word from God will ever fail.” Do you believe that?
- ❖ Are you willing to pray Mary’s prayer?
“I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.”



Luke 1:1-2

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.



1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

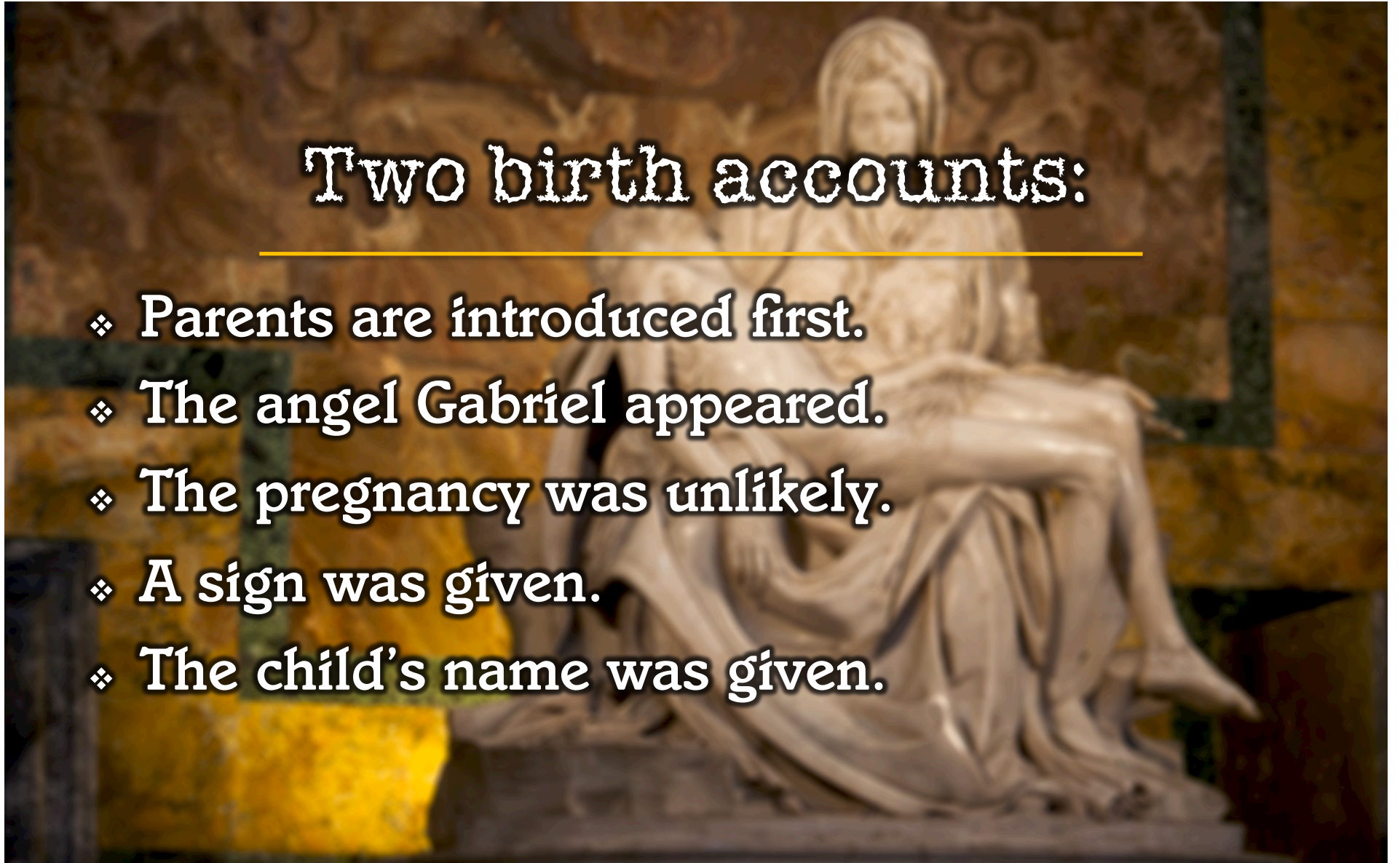


Luke 1:3-4

With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Two birth accounts:

- ❖ Parents are introduced first.
- ❖ The angel Gabriel appeared.
- ❖ The pregnancy was unlikely.
- ❖ A sign was given.
- ❖ The child's name was given.





Luke 1:5

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.



Luke 1:6-7

Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

First century culture:

- ❖ Rich > poor
- ❖ Beautiful > plain
- ❖ Old > young
- ❖ Fertile > barren





Luke 1:8-9

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.



Luke 1:10

And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

A stone statue of a seated figure, likely the Virgin Mary, in a traditional setting. The figure is wearing a long, flowing robe and a head covering. The background is a textured, brownish wall. The text is overlaid on the image.

Luke 1:11-12

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.



Luke 1:13

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.



Luke 1:14-15

“He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.



Luke 1:15-16

“He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.



Luke 1:17

“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”



Zechariah's son:

- ❖ He will bring many Israelites back to God.
- ❖ He will go before the Lord.
- ❖ He will go in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- ❖ He will turn the hearts of parents to their children.



Zechariah's son:

- ❖ He will turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous.
- ❖ He will make people ready for the Lord.

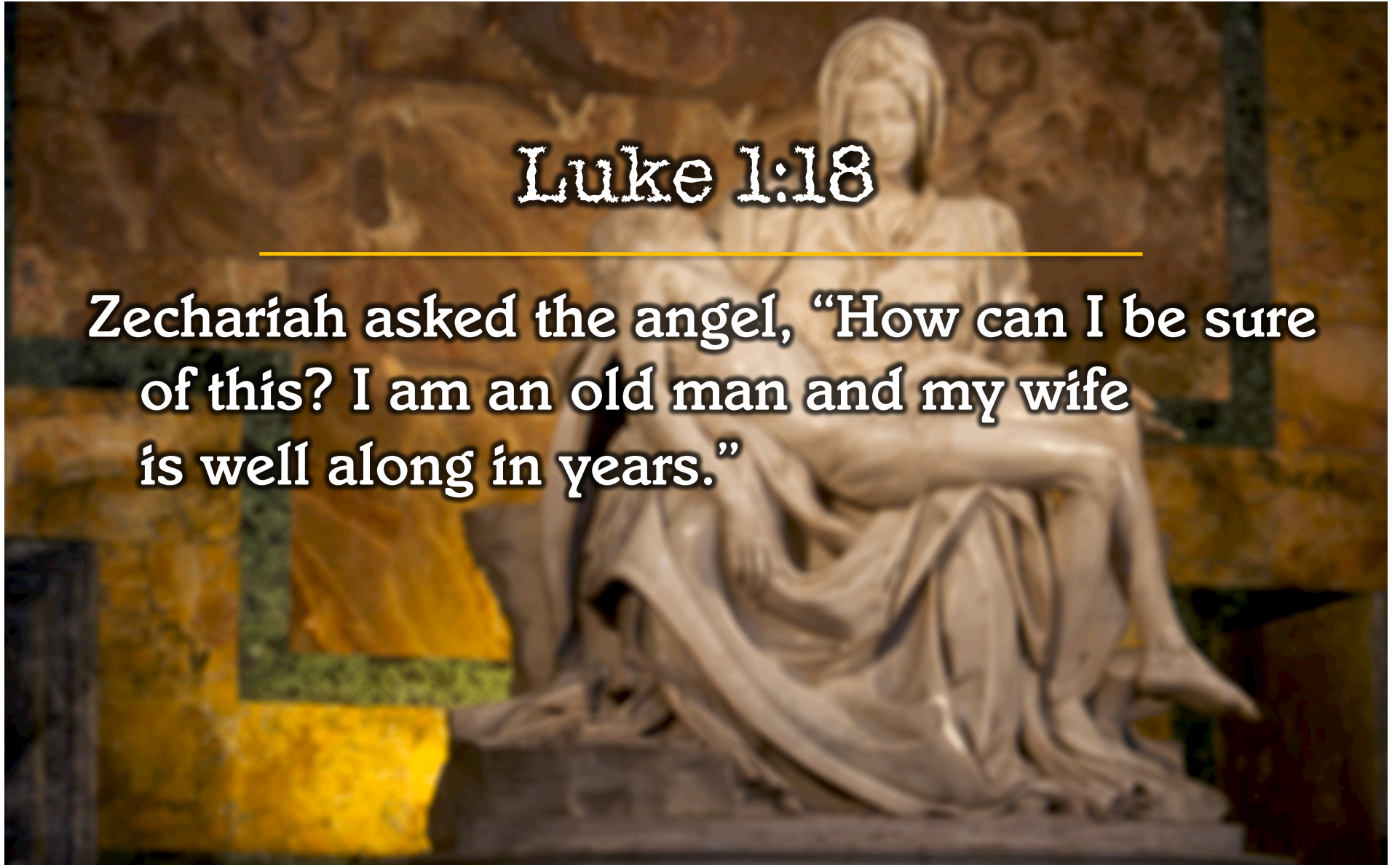
A stone statue of a seated figure, possibly a prophet or saint, in a religious setting. The figure is wearing a long, flowing robe and has a halo or head covering. The background is a textured, brownish wall with some faint circular patterns. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the statue's features.

Malachi 3:1

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

Luke 1:18

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."





Luke 1:19-20

The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”



Luke 1:21-22

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.



Luke 1:23-25

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Unlikely moms:

- ❖ Sarah
- ❖ Rebekah
- ❖ Rachel
- ❖ Hannah
- ❖ Elizabeth





Luke 1:26-27

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.



Luke 1:27-28

The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."



Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth
to a son, and will call him Immanuel.



Ben Witherington, III:

“The doctrine of the virginal conception also stresses that Jesus was fully human, participating in the whole human life cycle from womb to tomb ... He is a gift that comes ultimately from God, but comes through Mary in a way that allows one to say that Jesus’ origins are both human and divine.”



Luke 1:29-30

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.



Luke 1:31-32

**“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.”**



Luke 1:32-33

“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.”

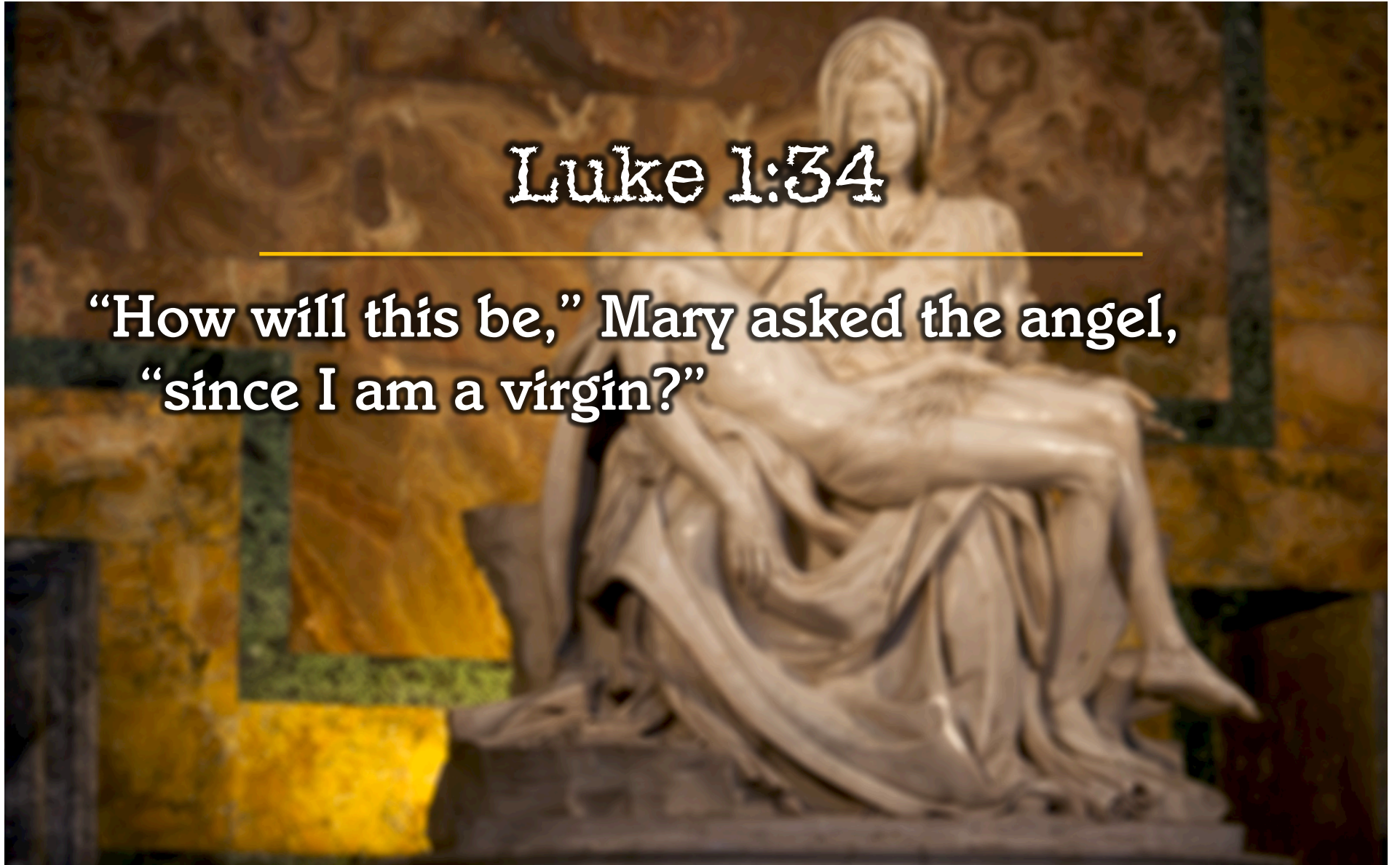


Mary's son:

- ❖ You are to call him Jesus.
- ❖ He will be great.
- ❖ He will be called the Son of the Most High.
- ❖ The Lord will give him the throne of David.
- ❖ He will rule over Israel forever.
- ❖ His kingdom will never end.

Luke 1:34

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel,
“since I am a virgin?”



A stone sculpture of the Virgin Mary seated, with a faint, glowing text overlay. The sculpture is set against a dark, textured background. The text is white with a black outline and is centered on the image. A thin yellow horizontal line is positioned below the title.

Luke 1:35

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."



Luke 1:36-37

“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.”



Luke 1:38

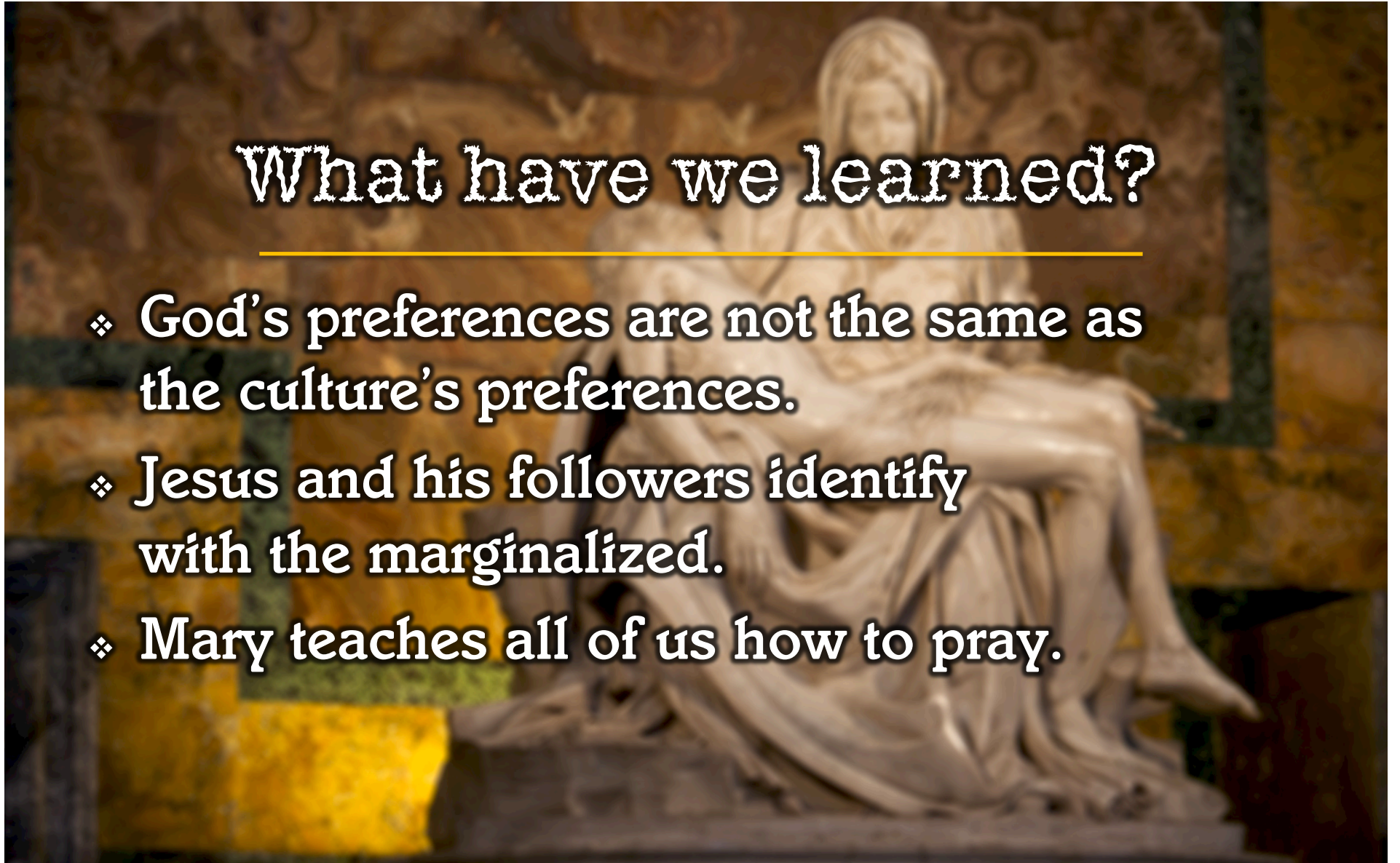
“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.
“May your word to me be fulfilled.”
Then the angel left her.

What have we learned?

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- ❖ God answers prayer.
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Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper