

**Topic:** Human Influences on the First Christmas  
**Text:** **Luke 1:26-27 (NIV)**  
**Theme:** “The human influences on the First Christmas represent the natures of the Messiah”

## INTRODUCTION

- In many instances, God always involves His number one creation—human beings—to carry on His agenda.
- To name a few, God used the following people to fulfil His plans: **Noah**, to build the ark to save his family from getting annihilated and to re-populate the earth; **Abraham**, to bless His people and to become part of the Messiah's family tree; **Joseph**, to save his own family and the Israelites from famine; **Moses**, to deliver the Hebrews out of Egypt by dividing the Red Sea; **Joshua**, to lead the Hebrews into the Promised Land; **Solomon**, to build the Temple; **Jesus** (as a man), to save humanity from sin; and **Christians** (not angels) to proclaim the Gospel to the rest of the world.
- Why and who were the three people did God use to influence the Reason for the Season?

## I. CARPENTER JOSEPH REPRESENTS THE HUMAN NATURE OF THE MESSIAH

*V27b “... to a man named Joseph...”*

### A. Joseph's background

1. God entrusted Jesus to Joseph's care as His foster father. Adoptive parents have same legal rights as natural parents.
2. The son of Jacob, a descendant of David (Matthew 1:16)
3. The son “in-law” (according to Bible scholars) of Heli, Mary's father (Luke 3:23)
4. A carpenter, whose skill was possibly passed on to Jesus, who became a carpenter Himself (Mark 6:3) during His hidden life, aged 12 to 29.

## **B. Joseph's humane qualities**

1. A righteous man who did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace (Matthew 1:19)
2. An obedient man who followed what was told of him in his dream (Matthew 1:24).
3. A man of self-control/chastity/forbearance who did not sleep with Mary until Jesus was born (Matthew 1:25)
4. A man of discretion (the power to decide or act according to one's own judgment) who gave the name Jesus as per the angel's instruction to Mary and him (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31).
5. The Lord honoured his authority as the head of the family. God spoke to him through dreams at least in three incidents: 1) planned to divorce Mary quietly; 2) escaped to Egypt when Herod ordered to kill baby Jesus; 3) came back to Nazareth after Herod died.

## **C. Jesus' human nature**

1. Was born as a natural infant, raised, and grew up as a normal child.
2. Was called the Son of Man (70 x). As man, He became hungry, angry, thirsty, tempted, tired, worried, troubled, cried to the Father, and died.
3. Is not half God and half man, but fully God and fully man.
4. Hypostatic Union: The term used to describe how the Son of God took on a human nature, yet remained fully God at the same time. He became (not created just like Adam and us) human being. He sometimes operated with the limitations of humanity and other times in the power of His deity.

## II. KING DAVID REPRESENTS THE DIVINE NATURE OF THE MESSIAH

V27c “... a descendant of David...”

### A. David's background

1. The youngest among eight brothers from Bethlehem (birthplace of Jesus)
2. His father Jesse was the son of Obed, whose parents were Boaz and Ruth. Boaz' parents were Salmon and Rahab (the prostitute).
3. Jesse, his father, was from the tribe of Judah, one of Jacob's 12 sons (hence Jesus is called the Lion of Judah and Root of David, Revelation 5:5).
4. As a young lad, he was a shepherd and Goliath's slayer.
5. King Saul's musician and composed at least 73 psalms
6. A warrior who had been to many battles; hence, the Lord did not let him build the Temple, he only did the planning.

### B. David's godly qualities

- Was a man of **faith** and had the audacity to proclaim **God's power and strength** before Goliath and his people (1 Samuel 17:45-47).

### C. David's royal qualities (as King)

1. Was anointed by Samuel to be king at an early age while tending the sheep.
2. Ruled over Israel for about 40 years and unified the 12 tribes of Israel.
3. As King, he displayed God's grace to adopt Mephibosheth (Saul's only surviving grandson and

relative) to his royal family and restored the land of his grandfather Saul.

- a. Mephibosheth, who became lame at an early age, ate at the King's table and was treated like a prince again. 35 of Ziba's sons and servants were ordered to serve him again.
  - b. This is a picture of God's grace adopting us into His family. King David's unlimited kindness and mercy to someone undeserving like Meph was absolutely like God's grace.
4. The messiah will reign over David's throne (Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32).
  5. The Names of Jesus related to David: 1) Offspring of David (Revelation 22:16); 2) Lion of Judah/Root of David (Revelation 5:5); and 3) Son of David (Luke 18:39; Matthew 1:1).

### III. VIRGIN MARY REPRESENTS THE SINLESS NATURE OF THE MESSIAH

*V27d "... The virgin's name was Mary..."*

#### A. *Mary's background*

1. Could have been born by 20BC; she lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee.
2. When she was 15 or so, Mary's parents made plans for her to be married, as was customary in those days. They chose Joseph of Nazareth, a carpenter, for her husband. The engagement took place and Mary returned home to wait about a year before she would go to live with her husband as his wife.
3. She was personally hand-picked by the Lord, 200 years before it happened, as prophesied in Isaiah 7:14.

#### B. *Mary's "sinless" (being a virgin) qualities*

1. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She was just an "incubator" (surrogate mother whose blood doesn't touch the baby). Hence, Jesus did not inherit the sinful nature of Mary.
2. Surrogate mother: A woman who bears a child for another person, often for pay, either through artificial insemination or by carrying until birth of another woman's surgically implanted fertilized egg.
3. Mary remained virgin UNTIL after the birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:24,25 NRSV).