

## **A SERIES OF CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **SON OF THE MOST HIGH**

Luke 1:32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High”

Gabriel, God’s messenger angel, continues His message to Mary and to us in which he has now named the boy to be conceived in Mary and whom she would give birth. This “Jesus” is not Mary’s son alone but also, Gabriel says He is “the Son of the Most High.”

This is Messianic language. This Jesus to be born is the fulfillment of over 700 prophecies in the Old Testament that God would send a Savior into the world. These prophecies are coming to fulfillment in the Angel’s announcement to Mary that she would conceive the Messiah, the “Son of the Most High” and give birth to Him.

The Prophet Isaiah, 700 years prior to Jesus’ birth, saw the glory or greatness of God in the coming Messiah. (Isaiah 6:9-10) Isaiah knew that the Messiah, God’s Son, would live a perfect life among His people and save them from their sins (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:4-6.) He had a glimpse of the glory of Christ that the apostles later saw (Matthew 17:1-8; John 1:14.) Gabriel was telling Mary here in the words of Luke 1:32, that Jesus would be great and manifest, make plain and obvious the very glory of God.

Gabriel calls Jesus, “the Son of the Most High.” Most High is a title found in the Old Testament for God. There is none, no one anywhere or ever will be higher than God. Mary and her fellow Jews were familiar with this title (Genesis 14:18; Psalm 47:2; 91:1; Daniel 7:18.) The title “God Most High” refers to God’s sovereignty and that no one is higher, more exalted or more powerful than He. Jesus is His Son and He is Jesus’ Father. This is all about the deity of Jesus.

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:3) As to the importance of Jesus being true God the Small Catechism states, “Christ had to be true God in order that His fulfilling of the Law, His life, suffering, and death might be a

sufficient ransom for all people; and, He might be able to overcome death and the devil for us.” As to the importance of Jesus being true man (a real human being) it says so that He could “act in our place under the Law and fulfill it for us; and, be able to suffer and die for our guilt because we failed to keep the Law.”

Prayer: There are not human words sufficient to truly tell the world who you are, Dear Jesus, yet I am thankful for those found in Luke 1:32, which assure me You are true God. Amen.

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come— ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the king of angels;  
Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O Come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain:

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exaltation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God— In— the— highest: Refrain:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee— be— glory giv’n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain:  
(LSB 379)