

# Luke 1:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

## Analysis

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**To a virgin espoused to a man** (παρθένου ἐμνηστευμένην ἀνδρί, parthenon emnēsteumenēn andri)—Luke emphasizes Mary's legal betrothal, a binding commitment more serious than modern engagement. The Greek parthenos unambiguously means virgin, fulfilling Isaiah 7:14's prophetic sign.

**Of the house of David** (ἐξ οἴκου Δαβίδ, ex oikou David)—Joseph's Davidic lineage legally transfers to Jesus, satisfying Messianic requirements (2 Samuel 7:12-16). **The virgin's name was Mary** (τὸ ὄνομα τῆς παρθένου Μαριάμ, to onoma tēs parthenou Mariam)—her Hebrew name Miriam means 'bitter' or 'rebellious,' yet God chose this humble Nazarene girl for history's supreme honor, demonstrating grace's elevation of the lowly.

## Historical Context

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Jewish betrothal (erusin) lasted typically one year, during which the couple was legally married but not cohabiting. Nazareth was an insignificant Galilean village of perhaps 400 people. The Davidic lineage had been obscured for centuries since the Babylonian exile, yet God preserved it in this carpenter's family.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

### Study Questions

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1. How does the virgin birth demonstrate both Christ's true humanity and true deity?
2. What does God's choice of Mary from obscure Nazareth teach about how He values the humble and overlooked?

### Interlinear Text

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πρὸς παρθένου μεμνηστευμένην ἀνδρὶ ᾧ ὄνομα  
**To** **a virgin** **espoused** **to a man** **whose** **name**  
G4314 G3933 G3423 G435 G3739 G3686

Ἰωσήφ ἐξ οἴκου Δαβίδ· καὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῆς παρθένου  
**was Joseph** **of** **the house** **of David** **and** G3588 **name** G3588 **a virgin**  
G2501 G1537 G3624 G1138 G2532 G3686 G3933

Μαριάμ  
**was Mary**  
G3137

### Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 1:18** (Parallel theme): Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

**Isaiah 7:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Matthew 1:16** (Parallel theme): And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

**Matthew 1:23** (Parallel theme): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

