Formation and the Word

Models of how Scripture/ God’s word functions formationally
26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”
Analysis (Mary Model)

- Source of the revelation?
- Mediator of the revelation?
- Recipient of the revelation?
- Content of revelation?
29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. Perplexity/troubled; wonder; fear. Revelation, even from God, does not always lead to complete understanding or to complete peace.
for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
Further questions

- 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”
- Is questioning God wrong?
- What kind of question is being asked?
- “I don’t understand; please clarify” or
- “I don’t agree; please back off”
38 Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

- Recognizes the source of the revelation
- Recognizes her relationship with that source
- Submits to the authority of that source
Comparisons/Contrasts

- Angel comes to priestly family (Luke 1) + a couple in Nazareth
- Far from holders of power
- Expectant mothers both sensitive to the leading of God (1:60)
- Power brokers far from the revelation (Matt 2- Magi’s visit)
Unexpected recipients of revelation

- Mary: the young virgin
- Lowly shepherds (2:8-20)