

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

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THE PROMISED PROPHET Luke 1:1-25

INTRODUCTION: Luke's Carefully Researched Account Establishes the Historical Truth About Jesus

Luke 1:1 *Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.*

The Promised Prophet's Arrival Heralds the Coming of the King of Glory

1. God chooses an unlikely couple to initiate the arrival of His Kingdom. (vv. 5-7)

Luke 1:5 *In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*

Luke 1:8 *Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.*

2. God promises the couple a child who will set the stage for the Messiah. (vv. 11-17)

a. The couple's prayer for a child is more than answered. (vv. 11-14)

Luke 1:11 *And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth,*

b. John will prepare Israel for the coming of their Lord. (vv. 15-17)

Luke 1:15 *for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."*

Malachi's prophecy fulfilled through John:

Mal. 3:1 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. **6** And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

3. God's purposes will be accomplished despite Zechariah's doubt. (vv. 18-23)

Luke 1:18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." **19** And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. **20** And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." **21** And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. **22** And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. **23** And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, **25** "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.

Reflection & Discussion

1. How would you summarize the significance of this episode in the story of Jesus?
2. What elements in this part of Luke's narrative support his claim that it is an "orderly account"? How does this produce confidence in "what you have been taught"?
3. What do you find most relatable, meaningful or encouraging from this account of a normal couple who encounter an extraordinary God?
4. How does this account agree with the overall "flavor" of the Old Testament?

SONGS

"JOY TO THE WORLD" – Isaac Watts

"FOUND IN YOU" – Paul Baloche and Andi Rozier

"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL" – John Francis Wade, Frederick Oakeley

"CORNERSTONE" – Reuben Morgan, Jonas Myrin, Eric Liljero

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 25,990.75

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,638,020.78

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,732,464.00