

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 1:1-25

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-574 SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

PREPARING FOR THE COMING CHRIST

THE PRE-EVENT DETAILS OF THE COMING OF CHRIST

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

John the Baptist, God's Plan

It's Often Been Said that Silence is Golden.
and that's true most of the time...

UNLESS IT'S GOD WHO'S BEING SILENT !

2000 Years ago The Roman Empire was In Power and In Israel, the Jewish People were Being held Hostage in their Own Land.

and if that wasn't Enough, It had Been 400 Years Since God had Spoken to Israel in Any Way.

There had Been no Prophets, There had Been no Angelic Appearances,
Israel and the Jewish People Sat in Darkness and Tyranny.

A Word from God Would be Good

PREPARING FOR THE COMING CHRIST

I.) *God's plan was being performed*

v.1-12

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, :2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, :3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, :4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed :5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth. :6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. :7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. :8 So it was, that while

he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, :9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. :10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. :11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. :12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

We Remember Dr. Luke's Approach
to the Events Surrounding Jesus Christ.
He lays a Foundation for Examination Like no Other Gospel Record.

Luke is Anticipating the Hard Questions
He is Expecting You to Come Along and Attack his Data

His **Autopsy** of the Events and His **Pathology** of Time
is critical to his report on what happened regarding Jesus Christ

God's plan is being performed

a.) In the details

v.5-7

:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abiyah. His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth. :6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. :7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abiyah.
Zacharias' Name Means = God Remembers

1 Chronicles 26:20

Of the Levites, (house of Moses) Ahijah *was* over the treasuries of the house of God and over the treasuries of the dedicated things.

His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth.
Elizabeth's Name Means = The Oath of God

"God Remembers the Oath of God"

Psalm 89:34-37

My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. :35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: :36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; :37 It shall be established forever like the moon, Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky."

Verse 6

:6 And they were both **righteous before God**, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord **blameless**.

Verse 7

:7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was **barren**, and they were both well advanced in years.

The Details are These "God is at Work" in the Impossible

God's plan is being performed

b.) At the right time

v.8-10

So it was, that while he was **serving as priest before God in the order of his division**, :9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to **burn incense** when he went into the temple of the Lord. :10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside **at the hour of incense**.

The Lord has His Plan and He Knows What Time It Is

Because That's True, He's Never Early

Because That's True, He's Never Late

The Lord is Always on Time

the "Incense & Prayer" Timing

while they were doing what they should have been doing

i.e. "going to church, serving the others by serving the Lord, living right"

God's plan is being performed

c.) Under heaven's watch

v.11-12

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing **on the right side** of the altar of incense.

:12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was **troubled**, and **fear** fell upon him.

he was **troubled**, tara₂ssw

tarasso, tar-as'-so; to stir up or to agitate. the boiling of water, to cause trouble.

and **fear** fell upon hm fo/boß

phobos, fob'-os; to be in alarm or great fright: — to be exceedingly fearful, to be in terror - on the edge of shock

This Revelation
It's Like a Medication That is Being Administered, by the Angel

The Lord Issues the Decree, The Angel does His Bidding, and All of Heaven is
Watching

we do not know if those who have died and gone to heaven can see or know anything about us
here and now - we just don't know

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,
and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, :2
looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

PREPARING FOR THE COMING CHRIST

II.) God's promise will never fail

v.13-20

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is 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. :15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also 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 He will also 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 a people prepared for the Lord." :18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." :19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. :20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

God's promises will never fail

a.) we need to act upon His promises

v.13

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard;
and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

what had been(?) his prayer request? that Elizabeth would have a son...

His Promise to Love Us, to Care for Us,
and to Do What's Best for Us will never fail,

"But Christian, do we understand that What we Want may not be in Alignment with What we Need?"

and you shall call his name **John**.

John's Name Means = The Grace of God

a certain priest named **Zacharias**, of the division of Abiyah.

Zacharias' Name Means = The Oath of God

His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* **Elizabeth**.

Elizabeth's Name Means = His Oath

God Remembers, The Oath of God, It's The Grace of God!

Acts 10:1-4

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, :2 a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. :3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" :4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

Can I Say Something Here?

never give up praying for that friend or husband
or child - never

Dear Christian,
Your Prayers are Ascending, They are Always
Before the Lord Who Hears

Psalm 54:1-2

Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your strength.
Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth.

God Remembers His Oath, and It's Grace!

God's promises will never fail

b.) we need to obey His word

v.14-15

And you will have **joy** and **gladness**, and many will **rejoice** at his birth. :15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be **filled** with the Holy Spirit, **even from his mother's womb**.

God's promises will never fail

c.) we need to prepare ourselves

v.16-17

:16 And he will **turn** many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. :17 He will also **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** a people **prepared** for the Lord.”

*“to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,”
Be Parents That Give Your Children God, Give Em; Jesus*

To The Parents God Says - - Deuteronomy 6:6-9

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. :7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. :8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. :9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalm 119:103-105

How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth! :104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. :105 Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

God's promises will never fail

d.) we need to see God's greatness

v.18

And Zacharias said to the angel, **“How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”**

he's in the holy place of God / he's looking at an angel from heaven,
and is doubting what is being said...

I am The Priest of God - today
I am The One Praying for Everybody - else
I am a Man of Faith - for others

God's promises will never fail

e.) we need to stop doubting

v.19-20

And the angel answered and said to him, **“I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. :20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”**

doubt & unbelief
leaves us silent and unable to speak about the greatness of God

And the angel answered and said to him, “I am **Gabriel**, who **stands in the presence of God**, and was **sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings**. :20 But behold, you will be **mute** and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you **did not believe** my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

You want a sign Zach - O.K.
you will not be able to hear or speak for nine months

by the time this kid is born you will be exploding with faith and worship and praise...

doubt & unbelief robs us of expression!
expressing our adventures with God

PREPARING FOR THE COMING CHRIST

III.) God's supply will always be enough

v.21-25

And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. :22 But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. :23 So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. :24 Now **after those days** his wife Elizabeth **conceived**; and she hid herself five months, saying, :25 “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people.”

God's supply will always be enough

a.) Because God supplies the setting

v.21-22

And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. :22 But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

Zacharias was caught off guard by the Timing of God.

He knew that God was Great and that He cared.
He knew the God of Israel was Omnipresent in the World

But... he failed to see God personally in his own life

Today, we have no excuse but to believe in Him and to Trust in Him

Romans 10:16-17

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" :17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**You Are His Setting, His Piece of Work
to build faith and Hope and Love and Power and Strength**

John 14:29

"And now I have told you before it happens,
that when it does come to pass, you might believe.

ANYONE LISTENING TODAY,
YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CHALLENGE BY JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF

EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE AND DECIDE

God's supply will always be enough

b.) Because God supplies the power

v.23-25

So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. 1:24 Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, :25 "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people."

For the first 5 months she pondered, meditated and no doubt,
rejoiced in the Lord's Provision.

You do not hear of Elizabeth doubting the News!

IMAGINE WITH ME,
FOR NINE MONTHS, ELIZABETH IS PREGNANT WITH CHILD.

Across the room Zacharias Sits, for Nine Months
His Tongue is "Pregnant" with a Story!

She has a message and you can see and hear it.
he has a message but we can't hear him!

YOU HAVE A MESSAGE - BUT WE CAN'T HEAR YOU

for thousands of years God has spoken to His people Israel through the Prophets

Hebrews 1:1-2(3)

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, :2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (BUT IT DOESN'T END THERE)... :3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Personal Application Time

THE MESSAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THIS;

"that God was in Christ, reconciling the world back to Himself"

to the Jewish people, God was to meet with man in a localized place, The Temple.

because it was at the temple where the sacrifice was to be offered.

it was at the temple where your sins were declared forgiven.

it was at the temple that a man or a woman was set free.

one big problem

when I sinned again, I would have to return to the physical temple to offer a physical offering
before I could go away covered again by those physical things

The Blood of Animals - really?

The Physical Temple - really?

"if we could have only known the Lord before a Temple had been built.

because then we would have been able to walk with Him always and at all times. if I sinned, I
would stop then and there and make my offering to God.

WHAT WAS TO COME OUT OF THE TEMPLE?

love, joy, peace, kindness...

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

The Priests of Old were to Bring a Connection to God
so that others might receive Forgiveness and Grace

Wherever the Presence of God Went, The Priest Went,
Where the Priest Went, Mercy Went...

Just Like Us Today

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **:10** who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, **:6** who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Acts 7:47-50

But Solomon built Him a house. **:48** "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: **:49** "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest? **:50** Has My hand not made all these things?"

Acts 17:24-25

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. **:25** Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **:20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, **:21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **:22** in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

God is Spirit;

John 4:23-24

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **:24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

**but what does it mean to worship god in spirit?
how can God dwell in me now?**

(first comes **repentance** toward God)
(second comes the **yielding-up** of yourself to God)
(third comes the **presentation** of yourself to God)
(fourth comes the **newness** of God)

John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; :17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. :18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

We Now Have Become the Dwelling Place of God "Living Temples if You Will"

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? :17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

Unbelief Makes Things So Difficult
When We Choose to Believe God,
everything falls into its proper place. doubt is removed and faith becomes active!

...the end