



LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

“God Breaks His Silence”

Luke 1:5-17

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Intro: From about the 5th century BC to around 3 BC no one had received any *revelation* from God; Malachi was the last recorded *prophet* until that time.

Miracles comprise a lot of *attention* in Luke's Gospel account.

- 1.** Miracles demonstrate God's *intervention* into human history;
- 2.** They can not be *explained* by human reason, natural *law*, or human *thought*,
- 3.** Most of what we refer to as *miracles* are more accurately an occurrence of God's *providence* and/or Grace.

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Intro:

The greatest miracle, the greatest demonstration of God's *intervention* into the history of man, is the *incarnation* of God.

The Gospel records aren't the *only* record of the life and *ministry* of the Lord, but are the only records deemed *inspired* and thus *canonized* in scripture, **Jn. 21:15**.

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A. Zachariah’s Background

- 1.** A priest of the *order* of Abijah, the 8th order out of 24, **1 Chron. 23-24.**
- 2.** Married to a *daughter* of a priest,
- 3.** He was *old*, “Well stricken in years”,
- 4.** He was an *ordinary* priest.

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B. Zachariah’s Character

He was *righteous* before God, **Lk. 1:6**.

Righteousness is:

- 1.** Defined by *Law*,
- 2.** *Empowered* by grace,
- 3.** Demonstrated by *obedience*.

The couple was *barren*, childless, but maintained their *devotion to*, and integrity before God.

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C. Zachariah’s Temple Service

To burn *incense* before God was a high honor that happened *once* in a priest’s life.

Burning incense was commanded by God in **Ex.30:7-8**, and indicated *prayers* rising up to God as a sweet *aroma*. **Ps. 141:2**.

The faithful *remnant* prayed outside while the *priest* offered the incense inside the temple.

The most *common* prayer was for a *Messiah*.

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D. Zachariah’s Prophetic Revelation

Zachariah was *terrified*, as was Isaiah, Gideon and others who saw a *holy* visitor.

More than *one* prayer was answered;

- 1.** A *prophetic* announcement of the coming birth of a *son* for he and his wife,
- 2.** A *confirmation* that his and the peoples’ prayer for a *Messiah* was heard.

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D. Zachariah’s Prophetic Revelation

God’s *sovereign* choice of John is seen in the fact:

1. He would be *filled* with the Holy Spirit while in the womb,
2. The God given *name* of John, which means, “God is *gracious*”,
3. The act being a fulfillment of Malachi’s *prophecy* in **Mal. 3:1**.

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D. Zachariah’s Prophetic Revelation

In the Malachi prophecy:

Daniel’s prophetic *weeks* were about to be fulfilled, **Dan. 9:25**,

The *seed* of Abraham which was to bless all *nations* was about to come, **Gen. 22:18**,

The *Desire of all Nations*, who would fill the house of God with *glory*, would soon be revealed from *heaven*, **Haggai 2:7**.

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Conclusion

Through all of this we see that God is bringing a *revival* to mankind. And in particular,

1. He brings Revival through His *faithful* remnant.

As with Zachariah, revival comes when *ordinary* people walk in *obedience* before God.

2. We need to be *prepared* to receive His sovereign grace.

A. *Righteous* in His sight,

B. Set apart, *filled* with His Spirit,

C. Prepared for the *Lord's* return.