

I have had a revelation to show you an account of the things that have been hidden away, as just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since it would have been useful to investigate everything from the beginning, I have decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zachariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abiathar. His wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth had not yet borne a son. And they were both devout.

Once when Zachariah's division was on duty and he was entering to pray before God, he was chosen by lot to burn incense. The custom of the priesthood is to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when that time had come, he stood at the altar to burn incense. And when the time had come for him to burn incense, he was chosen by lot to burn incense.

When his wife Elizabeth came to him, she said, "How can it be that you are here and I do not see you? For I have been fasting and weeping and praying for you, and you have not spoken to me." Zachariah answered her, "I am afraid of you, my wife. How can it be that I do not see you? For I have been fasting and weeping and praying for you, and you have not spoken to me." Elizabeth answered him, "You are right. For I have been fasting and weeping and praying for you, and you have not spoken to me." Elizabeth answered him, "You are right. For I have been fasting and weeping and praying for you, and you have not spoken to me."

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. This virgin came to be Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Holy Spirit. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the one to be born will be called the Son of God."

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When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. The Lord has done this for me," she said. "The time has been shown to me when my husband was to be born. For I have been fasting and weeping and praying for you, and you have not spoken to me."

son's death. For no word from God will ever fail.

"I am the Lord's angel," Mary asserted. "My young word to me be fulfilled. Then the angel left her."

At that time Mary gave birth and named her son Jesus in the full country of Judea, where the entire Zachariah's home and named Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored? And the mother of my Lord should come to me? How can this be, since I have never been with a man? And how is it that I have conceived?"

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zachariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called Jesus."

They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

Then they made signs to his father to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's amazement he wrote, "His name is Jesus." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What has a child doing going to be?" For the Lord had done with him.

His father Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of our servant David (as he said through his holy prophets for a long time):

and he has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped the weak, raising them to power, and he has sent the rich away empty. He has helped the weak, raising them to power, and he has sent the rich away empty. He has helped the weak, raising them to power, and he has sent the rich away empty.

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— THAT YOU MAY HAVE CERTAINTY —

Luke

1:5-38

A Tale of Two Sons

Our Three Questions

1. What does it say?

- Authorial intent to intended audience

2. What does it mean?

- Timeless theological truth

3. How does it apply?

- Landing it in our lives

Luke 1:5-38

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,

Luke 1:5-38

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. ⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,

Luke 1:5-38

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.

Luke 1:5-38

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.

Luke 1:5-38

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,

Luke 1:5-38

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,

Luke 1:5-38

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.” **18** And Zechariah said to the angel,

Luke 1:5-38

“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.

Luke 1:5-38

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.

Luke 1:5-38

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.

Luke 1:5-38

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.”

Luke 1:5-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said,

Luke 1:5-38

“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:5-38

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David,

Luke 1:5-38

33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her,

Luke 1:5-38

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son,

Luke 1:5-38

and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Preview

- On the ground stories
- The big story
 - Contrasting narratives
- What do we learn
- Application

Zechariah & Elizabeth

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,

Zechariah & Elizabeth

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.

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Timing in history: King Herod over Judea

Vocation: Priest

Family/Clan: Division of Abijah

Standing before God: Righteous

Biggest problem: Old & w/out children



Your Baby and YOU

Mary & Joseph

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Mary & Joseph

Timing: 6 months later

Location: Nazareth of Galilee

Mary: Engaged, Virgin, related to Elizabeth

Joseph: House of David

The Big Story

Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me...”

Malachi 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts,

The Big Story

so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet,

The Big Story

on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you **Elijah the prophet** before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

The Big Story

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.”

...

400 years of silence

The Big Story

Luke 1:14b “many will rejoice at his birth,
15 for he will be great before the Lord. And
he must not drink wine or strong drink,
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The Big Story

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.”

The Big Story

The day has come

The long-awaited messenger is here

He will go before “him”

The Big Story

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David,**

The Big Story

33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

The Big Story

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called **holy—the Son of God.**

Contrasting Narratives

**1:18 Zechariah: “How shall I know this?
For I am an old man, and my wife is
advanced in years.”**

**1:34 And Mary said to the angel, “How
will this be, since I am a virgin?”**

Contrasting Narratives

Zechariah doubts the trustworthiness of the message.

Mary questions the mechanics

What do we learn?

We learn a trustworthy account of history

Although He may act slower than our preference, God is trustworthy

We learn to believe what is told to us on good authority

Application

Real history, God's trustworthiness, & the contrasting receptions of God's news ...

Believe and trust God's word

Questions

Did anything jump out at you from the text or the message?

Have you ever heard news so good that it was hard to believe it when you heard it? What about bad news?

**Is there anything that God's word proclaims that you find difficult to believe?
Why is it difficult?**

Have you ever doubted the seriousness of your sins?

Have you ever doubted your value as a person? Maybe you thought that God doesn't or even couldn't love you?

What do you do in these moments?