

## **“Pregnant with the Promise”**

**Introduction:** Luke Chapter One provides a prequel to the Nativity story. Why does Luke begin with a priest serving in the temple in Jerusalem? Don't ignore the Jewish roots of the Christmas story. The continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament testify to the truth that there is One God, One Creator, and One Savior.

### **SECTION I Living a reverent and godly life in spite of your circumstances (Luke 1:5-7).**

- A. Zechariah (the Lord remembers) and Elizabeth (God is my oath) served God faithfully and earned a reputation of godliness. Are you using the political and cultural dysfunction of our time as an excuse to live loose before the Lord? (Philippians 2:12-16)

### **SECTION II Seasoned saints need to keep believing because God is not finished with you yet (Luke 1:8-25)**

- A. Zechariah was selected to burn incense in the temple. Only the priest was allowed to enter the temple, ordinary worshippers gathered outside to worship while the priest served. Incense represents prayer (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8).
- B. God sent the angel Gabriel (God is my Strength) to foretell the birth of John the Baptist (Daniel 9:20-23). God heard the prayer of Zechariah and revealed that his son would be a prophet (Malachi 4:5-6). John's prophetic role was that of a herald who announced the arrival of the Christ and called people to repentance (Isaiah 40:3).
- C. Zechariah's response caused him to suffer a consequence of temporary loss of the ability to speak. Zechariah had a public ministry and the crowd outside discerned that something supernatural happened in the temple.
- D. Elizabeth conceived according to the word of the Lord. She accepted her circumstances of entering motherhood as a form of blessing and deliverance from God.

### **SECTION III Young believers can be examples of trusting obedience and willingness to take faith filled risks (Luke 1:26-38).**

- A. Nazareth did not have a good reputation for a place that would become the hometown of the Christ. The Savior would be a descendant of king David (2 Samuel 7:12-13).
- B. Gabriel announced the good news that the Lord has chosen Mary to give birth to the Christ. The name of the Christ is finally revealed, Jesus (the Lord is salvation). Jesus is the Son of God and the promised King who will reign forever. The length of His reign is eternal, and the scope of His reign is infinite. The Lord Jesus has unlimited jurisdictional authority.
- C. The virgin birth of Christ is foundational to the doctrine of the divinity of Christ. The virgin birth is a supernatural miracle of the power of God. Do you believe that God is all powerful and spoke the world into existence? The physical world is evidence of the almighty creative power of God (Romans 1:20). Mary responded with humility and submission. Are you willing to allow the Lord to use you for His glory?

### **SECTION III Your miracle is designed to advance the mission of God (Luke 1:39-56).**

- A. Elizabeth is six months pregnant when Mary visits. Mary receives confirmation through Elizabeth's Spirit filled praise. If a baby in the womb can leap for joy over Jesus, surely, we can praise the Lord with enthusiasm.
- B. Mary responds with a word of praise. Do you find joy in God or do you focus on circumstances you can't control? Mary understood that generations to come would acknowledge the favor of God on her life. She recognized she would be called blessed not worshipped as a divine being. Some groups have exalted Mary to the level of divinity. This is called deification and is a pagan idolatrous practice. God alone deserves our worship (Matthew 4:10).
- C. Mary did not consider the assignment of birthing the Christ a burden or violation of her body or personal choice. She recognized that God did great things for her and for His holy name. God shows mercy to those who reverence Him, regardless of the generation you belong to. Do you have enough respect for God to obey His word?
- D. How did God show strength with His arm? He humbled the proud and exalted the lowly (1 Corinthians 1:26-29; James 1:9-10).

### **SECTION IV When the Lord visits humanity (Luke 1:57-80).**

- A. Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist and Zechariah's ability to speak is restored. Zechariah's first words are praise to God.
- B. The essence of Zechariah's prophetic utterance is: God visited humanity and raised up a prophet to give knowledge of salvation. The purpose of this salvation is so that God's people can serve Him boldly and courageously. The Day Spring from on high is a prophetic metaphor describing The Lord Jesus. This is a metaphoric personification of the dawn/or sun rise that possibly indicates the work of Christ ushering in the New Covenant and bring light to people in spiritual darkness.

**THE GREATEST GIFT AVAILABLE TO HUMANITY IS THE GIFT OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF SALVATION. DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE FULFILLING THE LUST OF YOUR FLESH. WHAT DOES IT PROFIT YOU TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE YOUR SOUL? WHAT CAN YOU GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SOUL? IF YOU ARE WRONG ABOUT GOD IT WILL COST YOU A PRICE YOU AREN'T PREPARED TO PAY. WHAT MUST YOU DO TO BE SAVED? BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND YOU WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

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December 18, 2022*