

Luke 1:1-56 – 1 January 2023

“A Season Of Preparation”

Introduction

*Luke, the Gentile Dr. was a close travelling friend of Paul & stayed so until Paul’s very end (II Tim 4:11)

*Luke seems to have been an eyewitness of events in this Gospel (except chap 1&2), as he remarks in Acts 10:39-41 that he was a “chosen witness of things that happened in the land of the Jews & Jerusalem”

*This Gospel is slanted so that a Gentile unbeliever can easily grasp its concepts

*Limited OT quotation

*Shows Jesus not as Messiah, slave, or God, but man

Today is the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus

God isn’t in a rush, but brings things at the set time to fulfill His plan universally & personally

There is always a season of *preparation* b4 the times of *operation* and *culmination* of God’s will

Today, we’ll see 3 preparations God uses to send a working of His plan either universally or personally

1st Preparatory step is that of grounding (Vs 1-4)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Read II Pet 1:16 - Not only are the facts recorded in this book from eyewitnesses, but their audience were eyewitnesses to many of the events
 - a. This is strong reliability
 - b. If I said I went to moon, & you went too)

Read Vs 3-4

1. This Theophilus was a Greek or Roman, not Jewish, & the book is written w/ Gentiles in mind
2. Tell the “Theophilus baby joke”
3. ‘Most excellent’ indicates significance
4. Luke wants them to know the ‘certainty’
 - a. I John 5:13 says these things are written so that we may know that we have eternal life
 - b. Don’t have a “hope-so”, but a “know-so” relationship with Jesus Christ

People Examples

1. From Moses to Paul there’s always a time of growing deep before growing up & out

2nd Preparatory step it that of faith (Vs 5-25)

Read Vs 5-7

1. Zac & Liz were godly in a time of silence from heaven that took much faith
2. They were still faithful even after life didn't go the way they intended for it to go (childless)

Read Vs 8-12

1. 20,000 priests so they rotated, each family only served 2x /yr for 1 wk – this is a special chance
2. Zac is just doing his regular job, on a special occasion, when Gabriel just appears from nowhere
 - a. The faithful go about God's business whether they see Him moving or not
3. Notice he was troubled & fearful – this was no flying baby in a diaper with a bow & arrow - ha!

Read Vs 13

1. John or Johannes – God is gracious

Read Vs 14-15

1. John will be dedicated to the Lord always not just for a period of time with the Nazarite Vow
2. Notice there are things that will happen to the person John even before he comes out the womb
 - a. Some say abortion is ok b/c they're not a person until God gives them breath at birth
 - i. So you're ok w/ abortion up til full term?
 - ii. Explain why God was interacting w/ John?

Read Vs 16-17

1. His personality will be rough & bold as Elijah, not that the consciousness of Elijah comes in
 - a. Tell story of THE Holy Spirit not A H. S.
2. Vs 17 is a quote from the last verses of the OT
3. As w/ Gabriel, Zac, John & even us today, our lives aren't about us, but about turning people to Jesus to magnify Him
 - a. When we read the Bible are we doing so for Him to be magnified or for us to be blessed?
 - b. Get grounded in the Word & believe God wants to work in our lives to bring salvation

Read Vs 18-20

1. 3 angels named in Bible
 - a. Lucifer: devil, adversary & accuser Satan
 - b. Michael: seems to be the warrior for Isael from Daniel to Jude to Revelation
 - c. Gabriel: seems to be the msg of God's plan
2. Why should Zac have *believed* this messenger, maybe he was from the pit of hell in disguise?
 - a. Doesn't Gal 1:8 say even if an angel preaches another Gospel let them be accursed?
 - b. Read Deut 13:1-3 – It's not about believing *something supernatural*; it's about believing *the consistent plan * message of God*
 - i. Look again at Gabriel's words in vs 20, "you didn't believe *my words*"
 - c. Not about believing *messenger*, but *message*

Read Vs 21-23

1. Vs 39 says they lived in hill country of Judah
2. Zac becoming mute is a great reminder
 - a. A Christian's unbelief on a given day doesn't steal our salvation, just robs us of blessing & joy

Read Vs 24-25

1. God delights to help us when we ask, but He's in it for a much bigger plan – the redemption of the entire human race
2. Zac & Liz names mean “God will remember His oath”
 - a. Even burning of incense = receiving prayers

3rd Preparatory step is that of God's grace (Vs 26-56)

Read Vs 26-27

1. Mary & Joseph were betrothed or promised to each other – this is exact way for godly people

Read Vs 28-29

1. Hail & ‘highly favoured’ is same word – grace
2. Mary & Joseph didn't deserve something wonderful like this, but they live godly & therefore were *eligible* to receive God's great grace

Read Vs 30-31

1. This is God's mission for Mary
2. The reason she can live for God in faith and not fear is b/c she has favor with God
 - a. This is the only true reason not to fear
 - b. Favor w/ God is only thing we really need

Read Vs 32-33

1. This Jesus (*the Lord is salvation*) will be the Son of God (vs 32) & the very Messiah (vs 33)
2. Ever since the Bab Captivity there hasn't been a king reigning on throne of King David as promised in II Sam 7:11-13
3. Jesus will take throne of David in Millenium

Read Vs 34

1. No doubt that Mary was an actual virgin and that this will be a miracle pregnancy from God
 - a. No doubt she had to be to fulfill Gen 3:15
2. God's grace performs all that we can't to complete His mission thru us

Read Vs 35

1. This makes Jesus the perfect Godman

Read Vs 36-37

1. The proof of the prophecy is to see Liz

Read Vs 38

1. This response of Mary's shows that when she asked, in vs 34, how it would happen, she wasn't doubting, just wondering how

Read Vs 39-45

1. All this joyful confirmation will be needed later, when things get hard & they're tempted to doubt
2. Notice vs 45, blessedness & joy comes from believing God for who He is & what He will do

Read Vs 46-56

1. This is praise, almost a song, it's not meant primarily to be dissected but to worship God
2. Latin, called the Magnificat from the 1st word
3. There are at least 15 OT quotations here
 - a. Shows godly home Jesus will grow up in

4. Notice Mary's stated relationship with God
 - a. 2x said she's servant of the Lord (vs 38,48)
 - b. Called God her Savior (vs 47)
 - c. Blessed of God (vs 28, 48) – that's grace!

Conclusion

There's always a season of *preparation* b4 *operation* & *culmination* of God's will & plan universally & personally in our lives

1. **Are you getting grounded in God's Word**
 - a. We need to have a 'know-so' relationship
2. **Are you growing in trust & faith in God**
 - a. Being grounded & trusting in God's Word makes us eligible to receive blessing (Isa 59:2)
3. **Are you accepting of God's grace to bloom**
 - a. God may bring big things unto your life that may seem hard, but use it to advance God's kingdom and watch the blessings & joy unfold