

Answered Prayer

Luke 1:1-14

Luke 1:1: Inasmuch as **many** have taken in **hand** to set in order a **narrative** of those things which have been **fulfilled** among us,

Matthew: 40 - 70 AD

- Matthew opened his **heart**
- Matthew opened his **home**
- Matthew opened his **hand**

Mark: 63 - 70 AD

Hope for Failures!

Luke 1:2: just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word delivered them to us,

2 Peter 1:16: For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** ...

1 John 1:1: That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which we have **looked upon**, and our **hands have handled**, concerning the **Word of life**.

Luke 1:3: 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**,

Luke 1:4: that you may know the **certainty** of those things in which you were **instructed**.

Luke 1:5: 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**.

Luke 1:6: And they were both **righteous** before God, **walking** in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord **blameless**.

Luke 1:7: But they had **no child**, because Elizabeth was **barren**, and they were both **well advanced in years**.

Do you think Zacharias and Elizabeth prayed for a child?

Psalm 34:15: The **eyes** of the Lord are on the **righteous**, and His **ears** are **open** to their **cry**.

- Maybe God is not **good** (Psalm 73:1/ Exodus 34:6)
- Maybe God doesn't **love** me (Jeremiah 31:3)
- Maybe God doesn't **care** (1 Peter 5:8)
- Maybe God is not a good **father** (Matthew 7:7ff)

Luke 1:8: So it was, that while he was **serving** as priest before God in the order of his division,

Maturity: Disappointment didn't keep Zacharias from **serving!**

Luke 1:9: according to the custom of the priesthood, **his lot** fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Luke 1:10: And the whole multitude of the people was **praying** outside at the **hour of incense**.

- **Burnt offering** every morning and evening.
- **Incense was burnt** every morning and evening.

Psalms 141:2: Let my **prayer** be set before You **as incense**, the **lifting up of my hands as** the evening sacrifice.

Revelation 5:8: ...**golden bowls full of incense**, which are the **prayers of the saints**.

Luke 1:11-12: Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Luke 1:13-14: 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**. And you will have **joy** and **gladness**, and **many** will **rejoice** at his birth."

Maturity: Disappointment didn't keep Zacharias from praying!

Luke's gospel has an emphasis on prayer!

John: Yahweh has been gracious.(More than they deserved!)

Many: they had know idea just how gracious God was planning on being to them!

Why doesn't God **answer** my prayers?

- Fail to pray - James 4:2
- Asking for wrong thing, motives - James 4:3 / Matthew 7:7
- No - Moses and Jesus
- Timing: His ways are **not** our ways! - Luke 1
- Sin - Isaiah 59:1-2
- Ignoring the poor - Proverbs 21:13
- Satanic hindrance - Daniel 10
- Husbands: mistreating your wife - 1 Peter 3:7
- Jesus is the way, life and the truth - John 14:6