

The CALL of CHRISTMAS

ZECHARIAH'S CALL

WHEN THE FULLNESS OF TIME HAD COME... CHRISTMAS

Galatians 4:4-5 – *When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law*

ZECHARIAH (Luke 1:5-10)

- ➔ Levite ➔ Priest ➔ Division of Abijah
- ➔ Married to Elizabeth (also a Levite)
- ➔ Together with his wife - Righteous/Obedient/Blameless ➔ Childless ➔ Elderly
- ➔ Doing a shift of duty at the Temple in Jerusalem
- ➔ Chosen by lot for the high honor of offering incense in the Holy Place of the Temple

INTERRUPTION / ENCOUNTER WITH AN ANGEL NAMED GABRIEL

(Luke 1:11-20)

- ➔ Side Note on Angels in the Bible
- ➔ Zechariah receives a CALL TO _____
- ➔ When Luke mentions an angel in the Christmas story, _____ in his original audience _____.
- ➔ Zechariah's selection by lot to offer incense in the Holy Place was a _____-in-a-_____!
- ➔ Note about the Golden Altar of Incense in the Temple (Exodus 30:1-8)

ZECHARIAH'S CALL TO PREPARE (Luke 1:13-20)

- ➔ Don't be afraid
- ➔ Your prayer (for a child) has been answered
- ➔ Elizabeth will give birth to a son
- ➔ Call your son "John"
- ➔ He will be a joy & delight to you, Elizabeth & many others
- ➔ He will be great in the sight of God
- ➔ He is not to drink any alcoholic beverages

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- ➔ He will be filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb
- ➔ He will restore many spiritually to God
- ➔ He will minister in the spirit & power of Elijah
- ➔ God will use him to “make ready a people PREPARED for the Lord”
- ➔ NOTE: ZECHARIAH DOUBTED THE ANGELIC MESSAGE (vv.18,20)
- ➔ The angel (God’s messenger) identifies himself as Gabriel
- ➔ The discipline for doubting will be 9 months of silence

AFTERMATH OF ZECHARIAH’S ANGELIC ENCOUNTER (Luke 1:21-25)

- ➔ “Charade explanation” to the crowd outside the temple (vv.21-22)
- ➔ Silent return home / Elizabeth gets pregnant & goes into 5 months of seclusion (v.24)
- ➔ Elizabeth praises God for His favor (v.25)

When God _____ your story, He makes it
_____!

HERE COMES CHRISTMAS! (see you next week!)



Sun, Dec 10, 2023 | Scott Hansen, Senior Pastor
Creekside Christian Church

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