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2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

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Galatians 3:29 If you are Christ's then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Ephesians 3:6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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### Amen

Amen is a word taken over into English from Hebrew where it means a very strong affirmation—a formal, solemn, earnest "I agree," or "I affirm what you just said," or "This is true." Most simply AMEN means a very earnest YES in the context of addressing God.

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### Yes in Christ Leads to Amen in Prayer

All the promises of God find their YES in him. THAT [because of the promises!] is why we utter the Amen through him, to God for his glory.

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### Lessons on Prayer

1. Prayer Is Through Jesus (In Jesus Name)
2. Prayer is drawing on the promises
3. Amen means Yes, God is willing and able
4. Prayer Is for God's Glory

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I Want Answers Now

- 1. Yes But Not Now
- 2. Yes, But God Requires Obedience
- 3. Yes, But I have a Better Option
- 4. No

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God answers “Yes But Not Now”  
because of a divine plan to  
magnify His glory.

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Luke 1

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. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

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Luke 1

But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

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Luke 1

And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him,

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Luke 1

“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. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink,

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Luke 1

... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 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,

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Luke 1

to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 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.

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Luke 1

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." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.

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Luke 1

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. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

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1. Zechariah and Elizabeth are priests tribe
2. Gabriel is the same Angel sent to Mary
3. Righteous in God's sight but likely suspect in eyes of the superstitious Jew

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5. Advanced years means at least over 60
6. All their life waiting for a child with seemingly no answer bearing with the shame
7. Stage set so everyone would hear and talk about the birth of your son

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Luke 1

There appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. **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."**

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1. Your very first prayer was heard

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1 John 5:15

And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

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1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their prayer...

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God answers “Yes But Not Now”  
because of a divine plan to  
magnify His glory.

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1. Your prayer has been heard
2. Divine planning, not Divine punishment

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### Order of Abijah

1. Zechariah was a priest of the order of Abijah as was John the Baptist.
2. Estimated 18,000 eligible Priests organized into 24 orders
3. Lots (Purim) were used to select who would minister. It was an honor to be chosen to serve

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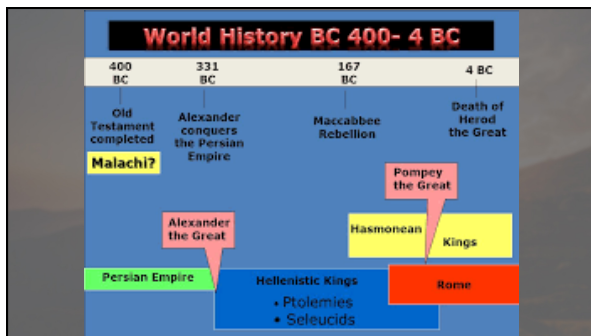
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### Timing is critical

1. Zechariah was on the big stage as a priest
2. John had to be born at the time of the Christ
3. Bethlehem star was set in motion at creation
4. Nations and governments rearranged
5. Zechariah had to be selected to serve
6. Mary, Joseph and 12 disciples had to be born

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Question

Would you be willing to wait a life-time for a nation-changing, supernatural child that was a forerunner to Christ?

How about a nation-changing supernatural ministry? disciple? job?

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John the Baptist

Priest of the order of Abijah  
Greatest man ever to have lived to date  
Forerunner of Christ  
Changed human history  
Visit from Gabriel

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Interconnected Solution

God answers "Yes, but Not Yet" because He is giving us more than just meeting our need. The Lord is giving us an interconnected solution to our need that builds His Kingdom and displays His glory in and through everyone, not just us.

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God answers “Yes But Not Now”  
because of a divine plan to  
magnify His glory.

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1. Your prayer has been heard
2. Divine planning, not Divine punishment
3. Our daily prayers are a sweet incense before God

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Revelation 5:8

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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Revelation 8:3-4

And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

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Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

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God answers “Yes But Not Now” because of a divine plan to magnify His glory.

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Declaration of Yes

Lord, I promise that by your grace this will be a season of my YES to you. I choose to turn from the NO and the MAYBE and the NOT NOW of my unbelief. I will continue in prayer until I have known the fullness of your YES in Christ Jesus. Amen!

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