

GLORY FOR ALL GENERATIONS 3 - MARY AND ELIZABETH

I. THE ENTWINED STORIES OF MARY, ELIZABETH AND ZECHARIAS

THE OLD TESTAMENT, written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, contains **over 300 prophecies** that Jesus fulfilled through His life, death and resurrection.

THE ODDS: 1 person fulfilling **8 prophecies**: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (17 Zeros), 1 person fulfilling **48 prophecies**: 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power 1 person fulfilling **all 300+ prophecies**: **JESUS!**

BECAUSE OF JESUS, THE ODDS OF YOU EXPERIENCING A SUPERNATURAL EVENT ARE 50/50- Depending on your decisions

THE SUPERNATURAL EVENTS SURROUNDING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AFFECTED ONE PERSON, THEN TWO FAMILIES AND THEN ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH - EVERY GENERATION!

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. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. **7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.*

- A. ZACHARIAS** (God has Remembered) **AND ELIZABETH** (God is My Oath or Dedicated to God)
- 1. ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH SERVED GOD FAITHFULLY - EVEN THROUGH THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF UNANSWERED PRAYERS**
 - **THEY WERE POSITIONED FOR BLESSING AND BLESSING SEEMED TO PASS THEM BY.**
 - **BARRENNESS OPPOSES THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES** (Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah)

Is 54:1 *"Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the LORD. **2** "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do*

not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. 3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

- 2. **BACKGROUND - a pool of 20,000 priests** served in the Temple. lot's were cast to determine who would serve in the various capacities of Temple worship. **A priest would likely serve before the PRESENCE in the Holy of Holies only ONCE in a LIFETIME.** Key moment

- **DIVISION OF ABIJAH** (YAWEH is my Father) was the eighth division of 24 divisions set up by King David manage the many services of the Temple.

Luke 1:8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, **9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10** And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. **11** Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And when Zacharias saw him, **he was troubled**, and fear fell upon him.

- **HE WAS TROUBLED. BELIEF DIDN'T DETERMINE WHETHER MIRACLE HAPPENED. IT ONLY DETERMINED HOW ZACHARIAS WOULD PARTNER WITH IT.**

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your **prayer is heard (BARCLAY- "The prayer you no longer pray is heard")**; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and **you shall call his name John.** (GOD KNOWS US BEFORE CONCEPTION!) **14** And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. **15** For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **16** And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** He will also 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, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "**How shall I know this?** (FAITH WITHOUT BELIEF) For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Luke 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "**I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20** But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Luke 1:21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. **22** But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

- **IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE FAITH AND NOT BELIEVE AT THE SAME TIME! FAITH CAN BE THEORETICAL BUT BELIEF IS ALWAYS PRACTICAL AND IMMEDIATE. The Intersection of REALMS**
- **MIRACLES ARE HAPPENING ALL AROUND US ALL THE TIME!**
- **HOLD THE REVELATION - WHAT YOU BELIEVE CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**

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- B. **GABRIEL - "God is My Strength" or "Devoted to God"**
 - 1. **ANGELS ARE SUPERNATURAL - THEY ARE SCARY.** Daniel fainted and was sick for days afterward. He was petrified in **Daniel 8-10**
 - 2. **I STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD** - There is no place more holy than where Gabriel spends his time. ***"I could be hanging out with God instead I am here delivering this message to you."***
 - 3. **SUPERNATURAL BEINGS ARE BY DEFINITION HARD TO BE AROUND. CAN YOU ENDURE A VISITATION? Help me, Lord!**

II. GLORY FOR ALL GENERATIONS - FOR EVERY FAMILY

- A. **MARY** showed **poise** and **humility** in the presence of Gabriel. She **knew what to do** in the **Presence**. **SHE SPENT TIME WITH GOD. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN HOW TO BE WITH HIM.**

Luke 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, ***"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"***

Luke 1:29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:34 Then Mary said to the angel, "**How can this be**, (SHOW ME, PLEASE!) since I do not know a man?"

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Now indeed, **Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.**"

Luke 1:38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! **Let it be to me according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

1. **MARY'S LINEAGE** - She was a special girl. "Gabriel called her, "Highly favored". She was likely a daughter of Aaron as well

2. **HER BETROTHAL** - She was already considered married. She was preparing to enter a great marriage, with status, honor and a bright future.

Matt. 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to **put her away** secretly.

3. **IT WOULD CHANGE HER FUTURE** - She said yes knowing it would change her entire life.

B. MARY AND ELIZABETH

Luke 1:24 Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, **25** "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Luke 1:39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, **40** and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** But why is this granted to me, that the

mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

Luke 1:56 *And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.*

1. **BABIES LEAP IN THE WOMB - WHEN DOES FAMILY LIFE BEGIN?**
2. **BABIES IN THE WOMB ARE ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN FAMILY**
3. **THEY UNPACKED THE WORD OF THE LORD TOGETHER AS EVENTS AND PREGNANCIES PROGRESS**
4. **MARY’S UNDERSTANDING AND REVELATION OF THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S MIRACLE INCREASED IN THE COMPANY OF ELIZABETH**

III. MAKE ROOM FOR FAMILY MIRACLES - THE MAGNIFICAT

Family miracles are the hardest to believe for - they matter most

Luke 1:46 *And Mary said: “My soul **magnifies** the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded **the lowly state** of His maidservant; For behold, **henceforth all generations** will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty **has done great things for me,** And **holy** is His name. 50 And **His mercy** is on those who fear Him **From generation to generation.** 51 **He has shown strength** with His arm; **He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.** 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 **As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.**”*

1. **TRUST HIM**
2. **LIVE IN SUBMISSION TO HIM**
3. **DEVELOP NEW MINDSETS:**
 - **RECEIVING**
 - **REJOICING**
 - **PROCLAIMING (DECLARE - Speak to where you want to go!)**