

MAGNIFIED - Hope

Luke 2:1-7

A real moment in history, breaking into our real circumstances.

We all hear the Christmas story from different emotional places: shame, fear, anxiety, isolation, loneliness, feeling on the outside, frustration, overwhelm, exhaustion, or simple numbness.

Yet the significance remains:

John 1:14 — “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

1. The Word of God Magnifies the Father

John 14:9 — “The one who has seen me has seen the Father.”

Magnify = to make larger; to praise enthusiastically; to glorify.
Seeing the Father leads to life:

John 17:3 — Eternal life is knowing the Father and Jesus Christ whom He sent.

2. Two Biblical Uses of “Word”

LOGOS

- God’s written Word
- Eternal truth
- Scripture we meditate on

RHEMA

- A specific, Spirit-delivered word from God
- Timely and personal
- Not a new truth, but illumination of God’s Word in a real situation

How we approach the Word

2 Timothy 3:16 — All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable.

John 5:39 — Scripture points to Christ.

John 6:63 — The Spirit gives life; the words of Jesus are spirit and life.

John 16:13-15 — The Spirit speaks what He hears from the Father.

Luke 12:12 — The Spirit teaches us in the moment.

3. The Pattern of Transformation

God speaks → God is magnified → Faith is activated → Things change

LOGOS → RHEMA → FAITH → TRANSFORMATION

Meditation becomes revelation.

Revelation activates faith.

Faith produces change.

1 John 5:6 — The Spirit testifies to Christ.

Romans 10:17 — Faith comes through hearing the word (rhema) of Christ.

1 John 5:4 — Faith is our victory.

Matthew 17:20 — Faith moves mountains.

4. Zechariah's Story — Luke 1:5–25, 57–80

A. Who is Zechariah (vv. 5–7)

A priest, married to Elizabeth.

Righteous, blameless, worshiping faithfully.

Barren.

Old.

Carrying long disappointment.

B. A Once-in-a-Lifetime Moment (vv. 8–10)

Chosen to burn incense in the temple.

A moment of intercession and encounter.

Psalm 141:1–2 — Prayer rising like incense.

C. The Word (vv. 11–17)

“Your prayer has been heard.”

- Elizabeth will bear a son named John.
- Joy and delight will come.
- He will be great before the Lord.
- Filled with the Spirit from the womb.
- Turn many to God.
- Prepare the way of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:1–5

D. The Question (v. 18)

“How can I know this?”

A question that demanded proof.

E. The Revelation (vv. 19–20)

Gabriel identifies himself.

Because Zechariah did not believe the logos, he is made silent.

Isaiah 55:8–11 — God’s Word will accomplish His purpose.

F. The Fulfillment of God's Word (vv. 24–25; 57–63)

- Elizabeth conceives.
- The child is born.
- The community rejoices.
- Zechariah writes, "His name is John."
- His mouth is opened; he praises God.

G. The Prosperity of God's Word (v. 65)

Fear and awe spread.

These "things" — these rhema words — circulate throughout Judea.

H. The Response (vv. 67–80)

Zechariah is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies:

- A message of hope (vv. 68–75).
- A message of purpose for his son (vv. 76–79).

The Word of God changes everything because it magnifies the Father.

5. A Word for Us Today

God's Word can resurrect what discouragement has buried.

The God who spoke to Zechariah still speaks into silence.
His Word will not return empty.

Isaiah 55:12–13

God leads us out with joy, restores what was barren, and plants lasting fruit.

Let this Word stand as a monument in your life.

Luke 2:1–7

6. What Actually Changed for Zechariah?

His future.

Let Zechariah's prophecy become our prayer:

"Blessed is the Lord...because of His merciful compassion,
the dawn from on high will visit us... to shine on those who live in darkness...
and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

"Let it be to me according to Your Word."