

**Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"**  
**"Unbelief"**  
**Luke 1:5-25**  
**Study-2**

**Theme of Luke: "Jesus Christ The Perfect Man" Written to Greeks**

**Purpose of Luke: "Knowing The Exact Truth About Jesus Christ"**

**Luke 1:1-4:13 The Introduction of The Son of Man:**

**Thought of Our Passage:** "God Does Not Always Do What He Can, But He Does What He Wills"

**1. Verses 5-12 Angelic Encounter**

**2. Verses 13-20 Angelic Prophecy**

**3. Verses 21-25 Angelic Results**

**1. Verses 5-12 Angelic Encounter**

**Luke 1:5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea,** - Luke has just said that he has arranged the account of Jesus in consecutive order. **Luke 1:3-4**

**Luke 1:5-25** We are introduced to a priest, **Zacharias**, that is gripped with unbelief. (Further proof this account is divine)

**God Is Faithful To His Promise:** Malachi to John, **"Four Hundred Silent Years" (No Word From God) Malachi, God's last word!**

**Herod, king of Judea,** - This was Herod The Great. He was the great builder who ruled Judea from 37-4 BC. Luke's date was 7-6 B.C. Herod had babies killed over hearing about Jesus' birth **Matthew 2:16**

**there was a priest** - At this time there were 20,000 priests living in Israel.

**named Zacharias,** - *"The Lord has remembered,"*

**of the division of Abijah;** - There were 24 divisions; with each division about 300 priests. **Nehemiah 12:4,12; 1 Chronicles 20:10**

**and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.** - Which means, *"God of the oath, My God Is an Absolutely Faithful One"*

**Luke 1:6 They were both righteous in the sight of God,** (God's sight not man's) Which means that they were accepted by God. Trusting in a messiah to come not themselves, Like Simeon and Anna **Luke 2:25, 38**

**walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.** When they sinned, they repented and followed the OT prescribed ways.

**God chooses to use those that love Him, fear Him and obey Him!**

**Luke 1:7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren,** - Her relative was Mary **Luke 1:36 (1st cousins or distant relatives?)** There are 6 special women in Scripture **Luke 1:25 to take away my disgrace among men."**

**and they were both advanced in years.** Which means that the biological clock had run out of time.

**Note: Being righteous, blameless and walking with God is no guarantee of freedom from adversities.**

**Note: Zachariah & Elizabeth did not become bitter with God and walk away but kept serving God! Take note of that!**

**Luke 1:8 Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service** - The priest was at his post; he was serving God that this encounter with God took place.

**Luke 1:9 and burn incense. Exodus 30:7-8 2X daily,** (*Morning and Evening*) Represents "*the rising up to God of the prayers and longings of the people*" **Psalm 141:2**

**Luke 1:10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer**  
**The people were in prayer** - Luke speaks much about prayer in this gospel.

**Luke 1:11 angel of the Lord** - This is Gabriel. **Luke 1:19**

The same angel appeared 500 years earlier to Daniel at the evening sacrifice (**Daniel 9:20-21**) Daniel was speechless, so was Zacharias.

**standing to the right** (Favorable side) **of the altar of incense.**

**Luke 1:12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him.**

Which is a typical response in Scripture. What have I done to deserve this encounter?

## **2. Verses 13-20 Angelic Prophecy**

**Luke 1:13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, (Divine Assurance) **for your petition has been heard**, - It was the prayer for the redemption of Israel through the Messiah.

**Delays in prayer are not God's denial of prayer!**

**and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.**

**John** – "God has been gracious, God has shown favor" A prayer for redemption has just been offered for God's grace and favor and through **Zacharias** it is answered.

Here is a classic Biblical prayer where a man prays according to God's will and God's interests.

This is the fulfillment of a prophecy that had been made 400 years earlier.

**Luke 1:14** have joy and gladness, - Luke uses this word **Joy 10 times** in the gospel.

**and many will rejoice at his birth.** The "many" does not mean All – John will boldly speak about repentance and against Herod's sin.

**Matthew 11:11**

**Verses 15-17 John's Power And Mission: Luke 1:15** and he will **drink no wine or liquor**; - This was the partial vow of a Nazarite.

**Numbers 6:1-21** (Neither Nazarite nor Priest but like both)

**and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb.** First mention of the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 1:16** "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

John's ministry was to bring the wayward children of Israel back to the Lord. **turn back** – great definition for "*conversion, to the Lord, new heart*"

**Luke 1:17, Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6**

**forerunner** – "a person or persons that went ahead of the king's procession in order to make preparations for his coming" **Malachi 3:1**

**in the spirit and power of Elijah**, - John's power would be his fearless presentation, his sincerity and influence! **John 10:41; Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Malachi 4:5-6;**

## **Matthew 17:11-13**

**John's Mission: TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN,** - Parents would be awakened to their responsibilities as to being godly.

**so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."** Repentance and be baptized!

**Verses 18-20 Unbelief: Luke 1:18 Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this for certain? Bad response! John 20:25 like Thomas, Zechariah got his sign; became dumb. Verse 20 deaf – Luke 1:62**

**Luke 1:34** Mary's question was: How does a virgin have a child? (Circumstances) Zachariah's was: How do I know this is for certain? Doubt!

## **Luke 1:19**

**Gabriel's Declaration: "I am Gabriel, - only two angels are given names Gabriel, "man of God" and Michael – "who is like God?"**

Note the first time **"good news"** connected to the Gospel. Basic theme of Luke's gospel

## **Luke 1:20**

**The Sign Through Discipline: behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, -**  
Also deaf – **Luke 1:62**

### **3. Verses 21-25 Angelic Results**

**Luke 1:21 wondering at his delay in the temple.** Would only take a minute or so.

## **Luke 1:22**

**People Deprived of The Blessing Through His Unbelief: But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; -** Zacharias was to give a blessing

**Luke 1:23-24 (Miracle that Elizabeth secluded herself from everyone!)**

**Luke 1:25 to take away my disgrace among men."**

## **Application:**

- 1.** God Always Hears Our Prayers. God's Apparent Delays To Our Prayers Are Not Necessarily God's Denial To Prayer. God Is Faithful Who In His Timing And In His Way Will Answer Our Prayers.
- 2.** It Is Not A Sin To Struggle With Doubt, But It Is A Sin To Settle On Unbelief, Which Refuses To Believe What God Has Promised.
- 3.** Zacharias' Unbelief Resulted In The Loss Of Blessings. A Result Of Zacharias' Unbelief Left Him Unable To Hear And Speak Which Then Resulted In The People Not Receiving A Blessing From Him. Zacharias' Wife Elizabeth Being Pregnant Was Secluded For Five Months Missing Out On Sharing God's Blessings With Others.