



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LUKE 1:8-20

LESSON: THE PROMISE OF MESSIAH'S FORERUNNER—

December 4, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

Luke's gospel is a record of historical events to establish the truth. Luke's purpose in writing this book was to show that many had attempted to write accounts of the life and ministry of Christ, and those accounts have been truthful and authentic; however, his account will begin with the birth announcement of Jesus Christ. He himself was not an eyewitness of the day to day life of Christ but he was a constant companion of Paul; who also had contact with the apostles. His investigative work led him to the beginning which some of the other accounts then in existence (Matt., Mk.) did not. Only Luke recounts the birth announcements of Gabriel to Zacharias and to Mary. Luke felt led to write these things to a man named Theophilus. The writings to Theophilus were not a long letter but a whole book. He said: **1)** he had perfect understanding of all things; and **2)** that Theophilus may know the certainty of those things instructed (**1:1-4**).

Luke is very exact in giving precise historical and chronological information. ¹Luke places the time here as during the time of Herod, king of Judea. "*Abia*" was a priest in the time of David. He was in the ancestry of Zacharias and his wife's lineage was trace back to Aaron. It seems as though Zacharias and Elisabeth were both of priestly ancestry. Zacharias' name meant "*remembered of Jehovah*" and Elizabeth's name meant "*one whose oath is to God*." Both were righteous before God walking in His commandments and ordinances, however, they didn't have a blessing of a child because Elizabeth's womb was barren. This was a problem in that day. Children were considered a blessing from God; a heritage of the Lord. A Jew whose wife could not bear children was thought to be cut off from God and he was expected to divorce his wife, remarry, and bear children. Now, Zacharias and Elizabeth were of old age; passed the time of child-bearing (**1: 5-7**).

LESSON: I. THE PRIEST AND THE PEOPLE LUKE 1:8-10

1:8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,— Zacharias had the unique opportunity of executing his priestly duties before God in the appointed order of his division, meaning it was Zacharias's time to go into the temple.

1:9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. It had become his time in lot to perform his priestly service. Incense was burned twice in the Temple daily. Incense was the sweet smelling spices burned as an offering in worship. It was a symbol to acknowledge God's presence and prayers going up to God.

1:10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. Only the high priest offered incense before the Holy of Holies. When the people saw the smoke from the burning incense, they were outside praying and awaiting God's blessing in the Outer Court. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolized their prayers ascending unto God's throne.

II. THE ANGEL AND THE MESSAGE LUKE 1:11-17

1:11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. In the midst of Zacharias' prayers and the burning of incense unto God, an angel of the Lord appeared on the

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/luke/01.html>
www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

 right side of the altar of incense.

1:12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. Fear came upon Zacharias when he saw the appearance of the angel. You know this was strange for no one else was supposed to be in the temple at this time.

1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. The angel assured him to not be afraid. Don't let fear take over because God heard his prayer (of him and his wife being childless). I know Zacharias had consistently prayed about this, and now God says "I heard you, and I'm answering you." Wow! Don't doubt God! And his son's name is going to be John! This couldn't have come until God wanted it to come!

1:14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. The Messenger was feared, but the Message would bring joy and gladness to them! And many would rejoice at His birth! The angel did say your prayer had been heard, so it had to be a specific prayer prayed that God heard and was bringing to pass! Their need had been met in a very personal way. How many have prayed for something and when it came you just didn't have joy about it because it took so long. Why didn't it come sooner?

1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. Their son is going to be great in the sight of the Lord. Greatness comes with stipulations! He is not to drink wine nor strong drink, as a Nazarite. And he would be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb. Now that's great power!

1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. Their son would be a prophet turning many to the Lord!

1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, 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. Their son would be the forerunner of the Promised Messiah (Jesus)! His ministry would be like that of Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, turning the hearts of the fathers to the children; the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, and making ready a prepared people for his arrival.

III. THE RESPONSE AND THE REPERCUSSIONS LUKE 1:18-20

1:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. Now, Zacharias responds by asking the angel a question: "Whereby shall I know this?" and telling him of his plight. It does not matter how God is going to do it, for He's sending him the answer. He and his wife being in old age, stricken in years don't matter to God! We are a people of how shall I know? The angel of God said it. Well, the Word of the angel was not enough to believe.

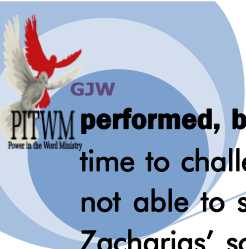
1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. It was like asking for a sign from an angel. The angel lets Zacharias know who he is that he is talking to; that's bringing this message. I am Gabriel—the one who stands in the presence of God. I can just see a 9 or 10 ft angel giving Zacharias his credentials because he didn't believe and didn't have joy when the answer came. Help! God personally sends a message to the man of God. He is the one who is sent to speak to him by God. He is the one who brought glad tidings, not despair.

1:20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be

www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. This was not the time to challenge the angel of God after such good news, for now Zacharias will become dumb; silent and not able to speak until these things proclaimed by the angel would be performed—the day of the birth of Zacharias' son. Why? Because Zacharias did not believe the angel's words to be fulfilled! Zacharias asked the very same question asked by Abraham (Gen.15:8), but Zacharias asked in a spirit of unbelief! Zacharias being a priest who also stands in the presence of God in the temple of the Holy of Holies should have known God speaking to him! The angel had already said that his prayers had been heard. This is the season they were fulfilled. It's not enough to pray but we must believe that what we prayed for will be answered by God. He could not spread his doubt because the angel had made him silent. Do we look at the circumstance or do we look at God, who is able to do all things in His season?

SUMMARY:

Zacharias had the unique opportunity of offering incense before the Holy of Holies while the people out-side prayed and awaited His blessing in the Outer Court. Incense was burned twice in the Temple daily. When the people saw the smoke from the burning incense, they prayed. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolized their prayers ascending to God's throne. In the midst of Zacharias prayers and the burning of incense unto God, an angel of the Lord appeared on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias became afraid and the angel said, *"Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."* The angel didn't say your prayers were heard, so it had to be a specific prayer prayed that God heard and was bringing to pass! The Messenger brought fear, but the Message was to bring joy and gladness! Many including them would rejoice over this news! Their need had been meant in a very personal way. Their son would be great in the sight of the Lord; shall not drink wine nor strong drink, as a Nazarite; and would be filled with the Holy Spirit even in his mother's womb. Their son would be a prophet turning many to the Lord, and he would be the forerunner of the Promised Messiah! His ministry would be like that of Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, to make ready a prepared people for his arrival (**1: 8-17**).

Now, Zacharias begins to talk by asking a question: *"Whereby shall I know this?"* He informed the angel of the Lord about his wife's old age. It was like asking for a sign from the angel. The angel lets Zacharias know who he is that he is talking to: I am Gabriel, he is the one who stands in the presence of God; he is the one who is sent to speak to him by God, and show him these glad tidings. This was not the time to challenge the angel of God after such good news, for now Zacharias will become dumb; silent and not be able to speak until these things proclaimed by the angel would be performed—and that is the day of the birth of Zacharias' son. Why? Because Zacharias did not believe the angel's words to be fulfilled at its proper time! Zacharias asked the very same question asked by Abraham (Gen.15:8), but Zacharias asked in a spirit of unbelief! Zacharias being a priest who also stands in the presence of God in the temple of the Holy of Holies should have known God speaking to him! The angel had already said that his prayer has been heard. The Word of God had come to him by the angel who stands in the presence of God; and speaks the Word of God. He now speaks to him, but he could not conceive it nor receive it. It's not enough to pray, but we must believe that what we prayed for will be answered by God. He could not spread his doubt because the angel had made him silent. Do we look at the circumstance, or do we look at God, who is able to do all things in His season? (**1:18-20**).