

“The Coming of Jesus – Answer to Prayer”

Luke 1:5-25

¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. (Luke 1:13)

Matthew opens up his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus, pointing out who was all involved in the ‘line’ of Jesus. The list would have encouraged all people to know that God is not ashamed to have ‘sinners’ in the line of Jesus because these are the very ones He came to save. Nor is God ashamed to have imperfect ‘family’ members, whom He is confident will share His message about Jesus. How does Luke begin his gospel and how does that encourage God’s people?

Read Luke 1:5-25

The Setting (1:5-7)

How does Luke describe Zechariah & Elizabeth?

1:5 Zechariah was a _____
Elizabeth was a daughter of _____, the father of all _____

1:6 “Both of them were _____ in the sight of God observing _____ the Lord’s commands and regulations _____.”

1:7 “But they had no _____ because Elizabeth was _____ and they were _____ well along in years.”

***If you were Jewish, familiar with the Old Testament, what are you expecting to read next??**

***Whenever God tells us someone was barren, it’s always for the purpose of setting us up for an unusual or miraculous birth. List some of them:**

The Timing (1:8-10)

Zechariah’s turn to serve in the temple came up. Since there were many priests how did they determine whose turn it was to burn incense in the Holy Place?

1:9 “he was chosen by _____ as was the custom of the priesthood to go into the _____ of the Lord and burn incense.”

Look up Ex. 30:1-10 and 34-38. Where was the altar of incense located?

Ex. 30:6 “Put the altar in front of the _____ that is before the _____ of the Testimony – before the _____ cover that is over the Testimony –where I will _____ with you.”

When did a priest go in and burn incense?

Ex. 30:7-8 _____ morning and at twilight

What was unique about the incense?

Ex. 30:32 “Do not make any incense with this formula for _____ Consider it _____ to the Lord.

30:33 “Whoever makes any like it to _____ its fragrance must be _____ from his people.”

What was the purpose of the incense?

Ps. 141:2 “May my _____ be set before You like _____; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening _____.”

Rev. 5:8 “And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls of _____ which are the _____ of the saints.” [cf. 8:3-4]

And how do we know this from Luke’s account?

1:10 “And when the time for burning incense came all the assembled worshippers were _____ outside.”

The Message (1:11-17)

The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah, at this time beside the altar – which startles Zechariah – and tells him what?

1:13 “Do not be afraid Zechariah, your _____ has been heard. Your wife will bear you a _____ and you are to give him the name _____.”

1:14 “He will be a joy and a delight to you and many will rejoice because of his birth and you are to give him the name _____.” [means God is _____]

1:15 “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take _____ or other fermented drink [cf. Num. 6:3-5] and he will be filled with the _____ from birth.”

1:16 “Many of the people of _____ will he bring back to the Lord their God.

1:17 “And he will go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of _____ to turn the _____ of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children and the _____ to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people _____ for the Lord.”

So Gabriel has just quoted two important texts to Zechariah. Read Malachi 4:5-6 and 3:1. What should Zechariah’s response have been?

***God announced the coming of the forerunner of His Son as an answer to prayer to an old faithful couple. Why do you think God did it this way?**

***What Old Testament period could Israel compare with as they waited for the coming of the Messiah as they suffered under an oppressive country?**

***What do we read in Exodus 2:23-25?**

v.23 Israel's cry for help went up to _____

v.24 "God _____ their groaning and _____ His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and with Jacob."

v.25 "So God _____ on the Israelites and was _____ for them."

How does that strengthen you to keep praying for something God hasn't answered yet?

***What are some of your prayers God hasn't answered yet?**

***What are we praying for that only God can do?**

What was Zechariah's reason for not believing God answered his prayer?

How do we sometimes act like Zechariah?

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