

The ANGELS' Role at Christmas ~ Luke 1:5-38

→Scripture Reading - Luke 1:11-20

INTRODUCTION

→Seeing IS Believing

Zechariah and Elizabeth CHILDLESS ~ Luke 1:5-25

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing ALL the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

IMPLICATION

vs.6- ...were upright in the sight of God observing ALL the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly
...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have OVERCOME the world. John 16:33 (NIV)

James 1:2-4 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work SO THAT you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Zechariah DOUBTS Gabriel's Message ~ Luke 1:8-25

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

- Temple - (temple complex)
- Temple (Temple cutaway)

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

The Angel Said - John will... BKC

- be a JOY and DELIGHT vs. 14
- be GREAT in God's sight vs. 15
- NEVER drink wine or alcohol vs. 15
- be FILLED with Holy Spirit from birth vs. 15
- TURN Israel back to God vs. 16
- go BEFORE the LORD in spirit and POWER of Elijah vs. 17 (Mal. 4:6)
- PREPARE people for the LORD vs. 17

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." ¹⁹ The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ "The Lord has DONE this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

IMPLICATION

Matthew 11:9-11, 13-14 (NIV) ⁹...what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

¹¹ I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...
.. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.

Mary BELIEVES Gabriel's Message ~ Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is WITH you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found FAVOR with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "HOW will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.

³⁸ I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. **May it be to me as you have said.** Then the angel left her.

IMPLICATION

→ Believing was Seeing

³⁷ ...NOTHING is impossible with God.

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) Faith is the confidence that what we hope for WILL actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) ...it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.

You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me." **John 20:29** (NLT)

1 Peter 1:8 (NLT) You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, **you TRUST Him**; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy...

The Shepherds BELIVE and OBEY the Angels ~ Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger...

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

IMPLICATION

1- The things this World VALUES are all Twisted and Distorted

2- The fact that the Shepherds got the news First teaches us that Jesus came for ALL Lost people regardless of Class or Status

TAKE AWAY ???

Believing IS Seeing...

- Zacharias believed - ACTED
- Mary believed - SUBMITTED
- Shepherds believed - SEARCHED

²³ ...Everything is possible for him who believes. ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, **I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.** Mark 9:23-24 (NIV)