

The Fourfold Gospel

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Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias

Luke 1:5-25

Vs. 5 - 7 There was in the days of Herod, king of Judaea...

David divided the priests into twenty-four bodies or courses (divisions), each course serving in rotation one week in the temple (1 Chron. 24: 3-19).

Zacharias from the division of Abijah

Elizabeth from the daughters of Aaron

Both were righteous in the sight of God and walked blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

They had no children because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias

Luke 1:5-25

Vs. 8 - 10 “Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, **he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.** 10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.”

Vs. 11-12 “And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. 12 And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear gripped him.”

Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias

Luke 1:5-25

God honored Zacharias and Elizabeth with a son named John, the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah.

Vs. 13-17 “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elisabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink, and will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, for he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to walk in the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (1 Kings 18:21-40)

Mal. 4:5-6

- 5** “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.
- 6** “He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”

Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias

Luke 1:5-25

Mal. 3:1-4

- 1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.
- 2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.
- 3 “He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.
- 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias

Luke 1:5-25

Vs. 18-23

Zacharias did not believe the angel Gabriel and remained mute.

Miracles that foreshadowed the birth of Jesus:

- 1. Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 18:9-15) with the birth of Isaac.**
- 2. Manoah and his wife (Judges 13:1-14) with the birth of Samson.**
- 3. Elkanah and Hannah (1 Sam. 1:1-2:10) with the birth of Samuel.**

Zacharias returned to their home after his priestly duties.

Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias

Luke 1:5-25

Vs. 24-25

Elizabeth kept herself secluded for 5 months.

1. She went away to spend time with the Lord, and to meditate on the destiny of the child within her.

2. When it was visible she finally did speak of her pregnancy, and it was to praise God, as her exclamation, “This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men,”

3. Elizabeth was grateful that the Lord had miraculously removed the stigma of her childlessness.

Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary

Luke 1:26-33 – The angel foretold the birth of Jesus

The angel came to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, not to Jerusalem, the center of Jewish life. Nazareth was such an unremarkable town.

The angel's greeting was not, "Shalom!" Rather, Gabriel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was the recipient of special divine favor.

Gabriel knew Mary was afraid. But with no deviation he said, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

Gabriel said, "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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever, his kingdom will never end."

Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary

Luke 1:34-38 – Mary's response of faith

“How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on 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.”

“Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

Mary knew that her personal sacrifice was for God's plan for all people.

Mary gave herself in profound submission to God, saying, 'I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.'" For this she was and is called blessed. (Luke 1:48)

Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary

Lessons we can learn from Mary's attitude:

1. Christians must cultivate a humble heart.
2. Christians are to have a reflective heart on God's Word.
3. Christians are to have a submissive heart.
4. Christians must be willing to serve God and have His Kingdom as our priority in life.

Parallel Annunciation to Zacharias and Mary

Zacharias

Angel Gabriel visited Zacharias to announce the birth of John (1:19)

Zacharias is startled by the angel (1:12)

The angel reassures Zacharias and announces the name of his child as John (1:13)

Zacharias was perplexed and asked the angel “How will I know that this is so?” (1:18)

Mary

Angel Gabriel Visited Mary to announce the birth of Jesus (1:26)

Mary is startled by the angel (1:29)

The angel reassures Mary and announces His name to her as Jesus (1:32)

Mary was perplexed and accepted her role and said, “Here am I, servant of the Lord.” (1:38)

Parallel Annunciation to Zacharias and Mary

Zacharias

Elizabeth will have a son and he was told not to be afraid. (1:13)

John will be great, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. (1:15)

The Annunciation to Zacharias occurs in the Temple. (1:8-9)

Zacharias was a priest serving God in the appointed order of his division. (1:8)

Mary

Mary will have a son and told not to be afraid. (1:31)

Jesus will be great and will be “Son of God the ‘Most High.’” (1:32)

The Annunciation to Mary occurs in her home. (1:26)

Mary was a simple Jewish virgin who is most highly favored by God. (1:30)

Luke 1:39-40



“The hill country” of Judea where Zacharias and Elisabeth lived.

Some guess that he lived at Hebron, others at Jutta, five miles south of Hebron, others at Ain Karim, four miles west of Jerusalem, but no one knows.

Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56

Vs. 39-41

- 1. Mary had faith that Elizabeth would welcome her.**
- 2. Elizabeth had faith that there was a reason God sent Mary to visit her.**

Luke 1:41

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1:39-56

Vs. 42-45

3. Elizabeth showed compassion, joy and honor to Mary the mother of the Lord.

Vs 42-45 “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is such an honor mine, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there shall be brought to pass all that was told her from the Lord.””

Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1: 46-56 Mary's song (Magnificat) of thanksgiving (similar to Hannah's song of thanksgiving (1 Sam. 2:1-10)).

- 1. My soul exalts the Lord.**
- 2. My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**
- 3. He has looked with favor upon the humble state of His bonds slave.**
- 4. All generations will call me blessed.**
- 5. The Mighty One has done great things for me.**
- 6. Holy is His name. (Ex. 20:7)**
- 7. His mercy is on those who fear Him. (Ps. 103:17)**

Mary visits Elizabeth

8. He has done Mighty deeds with His arm.
9. He scattered the proud.
10. He cast down the mighty from their thrones.
11. He has exalted those who are humble.
12. He has filled the hungry with good things. (Ps. 107:9)
13. God sent away the rich empty-handed.
14. He has helped Israel his servant.
15. In remembrance of His mercy, even as he promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever. 18

Lessons from Mary's visit to Elizabeth

It takes real courage to stand strong when the world is trying to undermine your faith.

It's important for Christians to gather and worship together corporately, in small groups, and mentoring relationships to encourage each other, pray together, study God's Word, and remind them that Jesus is real and alive today in every believer's life.

The foundation of the Christian life is the gift of faith that we freely receive by obeying Jesus.

Believers should look for the hand of God in *every* circumstance.

Recognizing God's intervention and purpose comes with spiritual maturity.

John the Baptist is born

Luke 1: 57-66

Elizabeth gave birth to a son.

Her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord showed great mercy and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. (Gen. 17:12)

They were calling the child Zacharias. (Male children were named at their circumcision.)

Elizabeth said that he will be called John. (Luke 1:13)

They replied that none of your relatives are called by that name.

Zacharias asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John."

John the Baptist is born

They all marveled, and immediately Zacharias's mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak, praising God.

Fear came on all who lived round about them.

All these things were talked about throughout all the hill country of Judea.

All who heard it took it to heart, saying, "What, indeed, will this child be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zacharias's Prophecy

Luke 1:67-80

Vs. 67-75

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is going to be the one to set the people free from slavery to sin.

Jesus is going to redeem in strength. Vs. 69, "...and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." The horn is a symbol for strength and power. That is the picture for Jesus.

He will bring salvation in strength, might, and power. God is showing mercy and deliverance as God keeps his covenant that was made to Abraham.

The gospel of Luke is going to show us Jesus in strength and power overcoming the spiritual forces of darkness and evil. God is being loyal and faithful, showing love to the people and keeping his word to deliver them.

Zacharias's Prophecy

Vs. 76 Zechariah's prophecy turns its words to John, the boy who has just been born.

What is he going to do? John is going to before the Lord to prepare the people.

The Lord is coming, and it is time to get ready.

John will go and preach, teaching the people about salvation and the forgiveness of sins that's coming.

This salvation comes because of the tender mercy of our God (1:78).

"The sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Lord is coming. Things are going to change. God is speaking to his people again. God is sending Jesus to save the people from their sins. It is a time of hope after dark despair. Jesus is the bright, morning star.

Announcement to Joseph about Jesus' birth

Matt. 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened in this way:

After his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man, and yet unwilling to make her a public example, planned to divorce her privately.

As Joseph was considering the matter, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to call his name Jesus (Luke 1:31), for he will save his people from their sins."

Announcement to Joseph about Jesus' birth

Now all this took place to fulfill the word of the Lord through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel—which means “God with us.”

Isa.7:14

14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Joseph rose from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took to him his wife, but was not intimate with her until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Matt. 13:55

55 “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”

Luke 4:22

22 And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

Announcement to Joseph about Jesus' birth

Jesus is both divine and human.

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.