

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *LUKE CHAPTER ONE* 1-6/7-2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION -

- **LUKE, a physician, writes with the compassion and warmth of a family doctor** as he carefully documents the perfect humanity of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. Luke emphasized Jesus' ancestry, birth, and early life before moving carefully and chronologically through His earthly ministry. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe are challenged to count the cost of discipleship. Those who oppose will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs

lifeless on a cross. But the Resurrection insures that His purpose will be fulfilled: “to seek and to save that which was lost” (19:10).

- **Kata Loukan. “According to Luke.”** Is the ancient title that was added to this gospel, a theological narrative, at a very early date. The Greek name *Luke* appears only three times in the New Testament (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philem. 24). **Luke’s** gospel emphasizes the **humanity** of Jesus, whereas **Matthew**, written primarily to the Jews, reveals Jesus as the **Promised Messiah**. **Mark** looks at Jesus as being a **servant**. **John’s** gospel emphasized **the deity** of Jesus. All four gospels, together, give us the picture the Holy Spirit want us to have of Him!
- **Luke’s Gospel emphasizes His humanity, His birth and His early life.** Luke contains far more details than any of the other gospels; more than all of the other Gospels put together. Nearly half of what we will read in Luke is not represented anywhere in the other three gospels. Luke uses over 300 words not found anywhere else in the NT. Luke contains the largest number of parables of all of the Gospels. Of the twenty-five parables that Jesus spoke and recorded for us in the Scriptures, eighteen are unique to Luke’s gospel, not appearing in the other Gospels! The writings of the Gospel and the Book of the Acts, fills more than one-quarter of the New Testament, slightly exceeding that of the Apostle Paul, if the Book of Hebrews is excluded.

LUKE – Chapter 1 – Dedication to Theophilus – (vs. 1-4); John’s Birth Announced to Zacharias – (vs. 5-25); Christ’s Birth Announced to Mary – (vs. 26-38); Mary Visits Elizabeth – (vs. 39-45); The Song of Mary – (vs. 46-56); Birth of John the Baptist – (vs. 57-58); Circumcision of John the Baptist – (vs. 59-66); Zacharias’ Prophecy – (vs. 67-80).

- **Luke is called by Paul the beloved physician.** In writing the book of Acts, he begins in chapter sixteen to use the personal pronoun, “We” then went over to Macedonia. It is also interesting that while Paul was in Troas, he was very sick. He mentions how that he was quite ill and it is possible that Luke was the physician that was called to minister to Paul. In those days, most physicians were slaves and they served rich patrons. It is thought that perhaps Theophilus was Luke’s former master who released Luke then to travel with Paul and journey with Paul so that Paul had his personal physician travelling with him in the work of the gospel.
- **Luke addresses both the gospel according to Luke and the book of Acts to this man, Theophilus,** a Greek name which means lover of God. Thus, Theophilus being a Greek, the gospel is sort of sent to the Gentiles. It gives you a Gentile view as the author was a Gentile and the only New Testament writer who was not a Jew. Luke gives us a great insight and special stories that are not found in the other gospels. He gives us the story of the rich man and Lazarus; The story of the prodigal son, beautiful stories that we do not find in the other gospels. A great presentation of Jesus Christ after very careful research on the part of Luke, who uses medical terms for some of the illnesses, just a part of his profession as a physician.

Dedication to Theophilus

Luk 1:1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us,

Luk 1:2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,

Luk 1:3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus,

Luk 1:4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

- **Theophilus was instructed in the gospel.** But this is now to confirm it and to let him know with certainty these things that happened. Luke actually interviewed the eyewitnesses. He questioned them concerning the things. He begins his gospel with the announcement to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, which we do not have in the other gospels. He tells us of the visit of the angel Gabriel, to Mary, which we do not have in the other gospels. The first chapter of Luke is really an insight to the background of the birth of Christ not given to us in the other gospels and in that sense it becomes very interesting to us.
- **It is thought that Luke actually interviewed Mary, getting the story directly from her** of her visit to Elizabeth because of the details of what was said and the reactions between them. He probably interviewed Mary to get her account of the announcement of the angel and of the events prior to the

birth of Jesus Christ. Luke is now wanting to assure Theophilus of the truth of these things that he had been taught, by giving him eyewitness accounts.

- **Others had set forth the story of the life of Christ.** Mark, Matthew and of course, no doubt others. John will write his gospel later on. There were many partial accounts of the story of Jesus Christ, but Luke wants to set it out for Theophilus in an orderly fashion.

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

Luk 1:5 *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias (the LORD remembers), of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth (oath of God).*

- **Luke is very careful to give us the timing of the events.** For example, In (**Luk 3:1**) *Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, [2] while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.* He gives you all of these historical reference points, which give you the exact timing, setting historically the timing of the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist. So, we are able then to give with great exactness the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, knowing with exactness when John the Baptist began his ministry.
- **A certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah.** His wife was of the daughters of Aaron. It was thought specially beneficial if the priest would marry into the family of Levi. In other words, that his wife was also a Levite or from the tribe of Levi.
- **And her name was Elizabeth.** She was one of the daughters of Aaron, that is, she could trace her genealogy back to Aaron, the brother of Moses.

Luk 1:6 *And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.*

- **Righteous, obedient, blameless!** Notice how simply we have the lives of Zacharias and Elizabeth encapsulated in just one or two verses. That is true for everyone.
- **What would be the encapsulation, right now, of my life, especially about my Spiritual life? Of yours?**

Luk 1:7 *But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.*

- **They were just a good godly couple but they had a great problem** in that culture, considered a cultural curse. **Barren ... well advanced in years.** This was seen by many as a sign of divine disfavor.

Luk 1:8 *So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division,*

- **In those days, there were an estimated 20,000 priests, Levites.** Naturally, they could not all serve in the temple at the same time. David divided them out in 24 courses (2x/yr). Each priest would serve a one-week stint, twice a year to divide up the duties of the priesthood. The rest of the time you would be occupied in your regular type of making a living. But you would be looking forward to coming to the temple for your week's service twice a year, as it was a glorious time serving in the temple.

Luk 1:9 *according to the custom of the priesthood, his (Zacharias') lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.*

- **When you would come, they would then cast lots** to determine what function that you would fulfill in the priestly duties, such as offering the sacrifices or the incense, or the many different functions of the priestly office.
- **His lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.** There were the morning and evening sacrifices going on with the burning of the incense. That was his lot. It was really one that was highly prized! It happened to fall to his lot to burn the incense before the altar of incense, just outside the Holy of Holies, where only the priests were allowed to go.

Luk 1:10 *And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.*

- **He would go in representing the people before the Lord.** The incense represented the prayers of the people. So, going in, offering them up to the Lord, a sweet-smelling savor to God. Then he would come out and pronounce God's blessings upon the people. (**Num 6:24-25**) *"The LORD bless you and keep you; [25] The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you.* While he was in there, the people would be waiting outside for the priestly blessing.

Luk 1:11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luk 1:12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Luk 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John."

- For four hundred years since the prophet Malachi, the voice of God had been silent. In (Mal 4:5-6) "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. [6] And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." This is the last word that God spoke.
- **Now God's silence is broken.** The first word that God speaks after the four hundred years of silence, picking up where God left off, is to Zacharias, saying "Do not be afraid!" The time of fulfillment of this prophecy of Malachi has come and Zacharias is to have an important part of it.
- **Zacharias, for your prayer is heard.** Note that (Luk 1:7) *But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.* They had never been able to have a child, so their prayer was God, give us a child. Imagine how many years they must have been praying that! It is amazing that he continued to pray that long, isn't it, for a child? Just how he continued in prayer even though he was now an old man, his wife was elderly, well advanced in years. He is still praying that God would give them a child. Just how he continued in prayer even though he was now an old man, his wife was elderly, stricken with years, he is still praying that God would give them a child! Talk about persistence in prayer! What an example of patiently praying for a long time! "*Your prayer is heard!*"
- **Just how persistent and patient am I in prayer? We see Zacharias and Elizabeth being so faithful, even praying for a child long after child-bearing years? Is not the salvation of an unsaved soul that the LORD has put on my heart, even more important? Are you not to pray until you get an answer?**
- **And your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.** John is the Greek for the Hebrew Yohannan, which means "God is gracious" or "God is giving." God is going to give you a son! Your prayer is heard! God is gracious. You are to call his name "God is gracious." What a beautiful name. Often names were given according to the circumstances. Surely this is a manifestation of God's grace in the birth of John.

Luk 1:14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his (John's) birth.

- **It is going to be an exciting event for you, joy and gladness!** Whenever a woman was ready to be delivered, they would call the musicians and the people would gather together. The birth of a boy was just a party-time, an exciting event. Musicians, dances and the whole thing. They would wait and when the child was delivered, the midwife would come out and say, "It is a boy!" The musicians would break out, the people would dance, there would be great rejoicing. Unfortunately, if it were a girl, the musicians would pack up their instruments and go home. That's not fair, is it? but that's just the culture and ladies, you've come a long way!

Luk 1:15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

- **He will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink.** That is, he would be as a Nazarite, a Nazarite vow, consecrated unto God. It was a sign of consecration to God.
- **He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.** Anointed with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb, consecrated unto God, a Nazarite, and great in the sight of the Lord! Jesus said, (Mat 11:11) "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Jesus' testimony of him. *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord!*

Luk 1:16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

- **He will be an evangelist!** Turning the people of Israel back unto God.

Luk 1:17 He (John the Baptist) will also go before Him (The Messiah) in the spirit and power of Elijah, '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."

- **The Messiah, in a sense, will be a fulfillment of the prophecy that God would send Elijah** to turn the hearts of the children to their father. He will come "in the spirit and the power of Elijah." Jesus

later said of Himself, after His death that He was, if you are able to take it, Elijah. However, that prophecy has a dual fulfillment and before the coming again of Jesus Christ, Elijah shall come and exercise a ministry for three-and-a-half years, as is told in (**Rev 11:3**) *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.*"

- **"He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah," 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.** Preparing the people for the coming of the Lord.

Luk 1:18 *And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."*

- **Zacharias, your prayer is heard!** It was not really a prayer of faith, was it? When the Lord said, the Lord has heard your prayer, you will have a son. How can I know this? I am an old man and lack of faith. I wonder how many of our prayers are just perfunctory after a while. We just pray them but we do not believe God is going to do it anymore but we just continue to pray, not in faith any longer.
- **How indicative is my prayer life of this? Is my prayer life one of persistence and perseverance, until it is answered?**

Luk 1:19 *And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.*

- **One of the chief angels of heaven, Gabriel**, whom it would seem God in charge of preparation for the events for the birth of the Messiah into the world. It was Gabriel who came to Daniel some five hundred years earlier, announcing to Daniel the day that the Messiah would come. Now five hundred years later, he appears to Zacharias, telling him, You are going to be the father of the forerunner of the Messiah. Then Gabriel came to Mary in Nazareth, telling her that she was to be the mother of the Messiah. So, Gabriel announces, "I'm Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God." Imagine that! To meet *Gabriel who stands there in the presence of God!* That ought to be enough for a person to believe such an angel!

Luk 1:20 *But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.*"

- **God's purposes are going to be accomplished!** They will not be hindered by you. Do not be put under a guilt trip, that it is your fault that God is not working. God is going to work His purposes whether you believe it or not. Here is Zacharias. He did not believe it, so he will pay the penalty. He will not be able to speak. Do you want a sign? Okay, you will be quiet, you will not be able to speak until the day the child is born, until these things are performed because you did not believe the word which will be fulfilled! It will happen!

Luk 1:21 *And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.*

- **Pastor Chuck tells the story, years ago, when Kay was sending out the Christmas cards**, she used to always love to put a little personal note and a scripture. One year *Matthew 1:21* struck her so she wanted to put it at the bottom of the card, (*Mat 1:21*) *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.*" A great little verse for Christmas, bringing forth a Son, call His name Jesus. But somehow she got mixed up in her mind and she put *Luke 1:21* instead of *Matthew 1:21*. So those who looked up the verse, "*And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.*" The people thought that she was sending a cryptic message that Pastor Chuck was spending too much time at church and not enough time with her.

Luk 1:22 *But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.*

- **He came out and could not pronounce the blessing.** They perceived that he must have seen a vision.

Luk 1:23 *So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house.*

Luk 1:24 *Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying,*

Luk 1:25 *"Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."*

- **It was a reproach, it was a shame!** It was considered a curse for a woman not to be able to bear a child. She was thankful not only for the coming birth of the child and the promises associated with them, but to have that reproach lifted from her!

Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luk 1:26 Now in the sixth month (of Elizabeth's pregnancy) the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth (city of bad reputation),

Luk 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

- **Betrothed, in their culture meant engagement, a very serious commitment to one another.** Then, the marriage was by arrangement by the parents. So, you could be engaged when you were five years old. Your parents got together with their friends and they had a cute little girl, you are a nice little boy and they say, Why don't we arrange for our children to get married?
- **But one year before the actual wedding, you entered into a contract that was called the espousal, or betrothal,** in which you were totally committed to each other for this one-year period of espousal.
- **To break this commitment took a writing of divorce.** You had to actually be divorced from this commitment during this year of espousal. They were in this year of espousal when the angel came unto her. She was betrothed to Joseph.

Luk 1:28 *And having come in, the angel said to her (Mary), "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"*

- **There is a Protestant backlash to the worship of Mary** that has been instituted by the Catholic church, sort of elevating her, calling her the mother of God, a term that is never used in the Bible. Then declaring that she was conceived without sin, declaring that she ascended into heaven, the divine assumption of Mary, and that she is an intermediary between you and Jesus. That you can pray to Mary and she in turn will go to her Son who would surely not deny His mother favors. So, she has become an intermediary between you and Jesus.
- **Jesus actually rebuked Mary in the first part of John at the wedding feast of Cana** in Galilee and later He put all of His followers on the same level. *(Mat 12:48,50) But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" [50] For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.* We Protestants have sort of been guilty of this backlash against Mary.
- **It should be noted that of all of the women who have ever lived, God chose her** and granted her the highest honor of any woman ever born! That is the honor of being the human instrument through which He would bring His Son into the world. She was a very spiritual, godly young girl, probably around fifteen or sixteen years old at the time because marriage in those days was at a very young age.

Luk 1:29 *But when she (Mary) saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.*

Luk 1:30 *Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

Luk 1:31 *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.*

- **You are to conceive in your womb, that is, without the benefit of a relationship with a man.** Referring to the virgin birth, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son. You are to call His name Jesus, Greek for the Hebrew word Joshua which is *Jehovah is salvation*, one of the compound names of Jehovah. Jehovah Shua or Joshua for Jesus. Jehovah is salvation and Jesus came to save the world from sin. *You....shall call his name Jesus!*

Luk 1:32 *He (Jesus) will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest (Son of God, vs. 35); and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.*

- **The throne of his father David.** Mary was a descendant of David as in the genealogy in the third chapter of Luke which we will get in a couple of weeks.

Luk 1:33 *And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

- **The promise of God to David will be fulfilled** that there shall be one of his seed who will sit upon the throne forever. It will be fulfilled in Jesus who will be sitting upon the throne of David forever. *(Isa 9:7) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

Luk 1:34 *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"*

- **Zacharias spoke with doubt when he asked the question.** Mary's question was one of procedure. *How can this be, since I do not know a man?* How is this going to happen? She believed it but she wondered concerning the process by which it will take place, seeing that she has not had physical intercourse with a man.

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

- **Divine operation of God, planting the seed so that you will have a perfect God Man,** Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. Jesus is Man born of the virgin Mary. He is God, the Son of God, the Seed of God planted in the womb of Mary.
- God had said in (***Gen 3:15***) *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.* So, Jesus would destroy the power of Satan. John tells us, (***1Jn 3:8b***) *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
- **Here we find the woman's seed, the virgin birth, conceived by the Holy Spirit,** Jesus would be born. The angel tells her the process by which it will come to pass.

Luk 1:36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month (of her pregnancy) for her who was called barren.

Luk 1:37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

- **People have a problem with the virgin birth.** Their problem really is not with the virgin birth. Their problem is with the concept of God. *"For with God nothing will be impossible."* You should not have any problem if you can believe the first verse of Genesis, you should have no problem with the rest of the Bible. If your God is great enough to create the heaven and the earth, then He is big enough to do anything!

Luk 1:38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- **Here again, the character of Mary.** The angel announces this. It is going to create a lot of difficulties, especially between Joseph and her. She comes up pregnant. How do you explain that to the fellow to which you are espoused?
- **But Mary, in surrender and submission said, "Behold, the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her."** Notice that beautiful submission. Here I am, the handmaid of the Lord; let it be as you have said. Surrender and submission.
- ***Is God calling me to take a step of faith and do something extraordinary for Him? I see what it is going to cost me to obey Him! I have to pull back under the beauty of this surrender, saying to Him, yes, I will surrender my life toward Your purposes, realizing that one day there may be those eternally impacted by the surrender that I made!***

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Luk 1:39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah,

Luk 1:40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

Luk 1:41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Now, at the voice of Mary, John, in the womb is filled with the Holy Spirit as Gabriel said. (***Luk 1:15b***) *He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*

Luk 1:42 Then she (Elizabeth) spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you (Mary) among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

- ***Blessed are you among women.*** Elizabeth does not say to Mary. Blessed are you, not over women, but among women. The Bible does not ever venerate Mary over all women, except that she was the one who carried the baby Jesus in her womb, giving delivery to Him.
- **We are thankful for her on a level where Elizabeth expresses her joy here.** *Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*

Luk 1:43 But why is this granted to me (Elizabeth), that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luk 1:44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

- **In the womb, John the Baptist hears the Mary's voice. He is filled with the Holy Spirit.** Here we get a little further insight. John the baby experienced *joy* from the womb! Overhearing the voice of the mother of the Savior that he would be the forerunner of the Messiah! Again, the mystery and the beauty of it here. In terms of all the dynamics that are happening in, in this entire scene,

Luk 1:45 *Blessed is she (Mary) who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.*

- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to prophesy to Mary, declaring that it is going to be just as God has declared to you.

Mary's Song of Praise: *The Magnificat*

- **Here we have what is called *The Magnificat*!** Mary's rejoicing and praise of the Lord and this whole praise of Mary, *The Magnificat*, is just filled with the thoughts and concepts of God from the Old Testament. Nearly every verse breathes of the Old Testament concepts of God which means that she was very devout, very well-versed in the scriptures.

Luk 1:46 *And Mary said: "My soul magnifies (celebrates with words and extols with praises) the Lord,*

- **Imagine now, here is a young girl just in her teens and this glorious praise that comes forth pouring out to God from her spirit. "My soul magnifies the Lord!" *is my soul magnifying the LORD? How much?***

Luk 1:47 *And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

Luk 1:48 *For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.*

- The blessed Mary, the blessed mother of our Lord.

Luk 1:49 *For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.*

Luk 1:50 *And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.*

Luk 1:51 *He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

Luk 1:52 *He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly.*

Luk 1:53 *He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty.*

Luk 1:54 *He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy,*

Luk 1:55 *As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.*

- This praising the Lord for the fact that this birth would humble *the proud*! It would humble *the mighty*! It would humble *the rich*! Mary recognizes in all of this that this is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Luk 1:56 *And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.*

- She stayed there for three months, probably until the birth of John the Baptist, before she returned because remember she was six months pregnant when the angel visited Mary. So, this beautiful expression of praise to the Lord, *The Magnificat*, I would encourage you to read over again *The Magnificat* in your own leisure and just think about the things that she is declaring of God, which of course, reveal her depth of understanding and commitment and devotion unto God.

The Birth of John the Baptist

Luk 1:57 *Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.*

Luk 1:58 *When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.*

- Remember the angel said to Zacharias that there would be joy and rejoicing. So, they came and they rejoiced with her.

Luk 1:59 *So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias.*

- That is, all the family came in and said, little Zacharias, little Zach, great!.

Luk 1:60 *His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John."*

Luk 1:61 *But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name."*

Luk 1:62 *So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.*

Luk 1:63 *And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled.*

Luk 1:64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

Luk 1:65 Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea.

Luk 1:66 And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

- You wonder about a birth like this and the child. What kind of a child is this going to be!

Zechariah's Prophecy

Luk 1:67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

- The whole family, Elizabeth, John the Baptist filled with the Holy Spirit, in the womb, and now the father Zacharias filled with the Holy Spirit. The manifestation was prophesying with both Elisabeth and with Zacharias. In his prophecy he said:

Luk 1:68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,

Luk 1:69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,

Luk 1:70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began,

- God from the beginning was promising the Savior, the Messiah. He is prophesying that the time has come for the fulfillment of this promise of God.

Luk 1:71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us,

- From the powers of Satan and the powers of darkness that are out to destroy us.

Luk 1:72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant,

Luk 1:73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

- Where God said to Abraham (**Gen 15:5**) *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."* And (**Gen 32:12**) *For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'* Referring, Paul said, (**Gal 3:16**) *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "AND TO YOUR SEED," who is Christ.*

Luk 1:74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

Luk 1:75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

Luk 1:76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

- (**Isa 40:3**) *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.*

Luk 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,

- John the Baptist went forth preaching, declaring to the people that they should repent, the kingdom of God was at hand. *For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways. To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins.*

Luk 1:78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

- **The Dayspring from on high.** Go back again to (**Mal 4:2a**) *But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings.* This word "Dayspring," think of it, break it up now, Day-spring. It is actually literally the sun rising or the day rising, the day springing forth. The new day springing forth. So, it is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi, the Sun of righteousness shall arise. The rising Sun is the Dayspring!
- **It is also the same word that in the Greek Septuagint was used to translate the word, "branch"** in the prophecies of the Old Testament that God would raise from Jesse a righteous *branch* and so forth. The same word *branch* that is used prophetically of the Messiah is translated into the same Greek word, the rising sun or the sun rising. Here is the fulfillment, *"the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings."*
- **John was "to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins. Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us.**

Luk 1:79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

- *(Isa 9:2) The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.*

Luk 1:80 *So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.*

- **The beautiful prophecy of Zacharias concerning John the Baptist**, his ministry going before the Lord, preparing the hearts of the people, declaring the remission of sins that God was bringing to man and this rising Sun that would give light to those who were in darkness and those who were living in the shadow of death because of sin. God's great plan of redemption through Jesus Christ!
- **The scene is set, exciting days, God is moving**, the plan of God that has been in a holding pattern for several thousand years is now ready to be enacted. What exciting days with the birth of John the Baptist and these prophecies that are about to be fulfilled.
- **Much like the days in which we are living. Exciting days when** there is about to come the fulfillment of many of these things for which our hearts have longed and yearned for as the Sun of righteousness shall again arise with healing in His wings! These prophecies of His eternal reign will be fulfilled as Jesus shall come and establish God's kingdom over the earth. We are living in exciting times as we see God's word about again to come to pass before our eyes. Living in this anticipation and excitement of God fulfilling His promises.

SUMMARY

- **What would be the encapsulation, right now, of my life, especially about my Spiritual life? Of yours? (Luk 1:6)**
- **Just how persistent and patient am I in prayer? We see Zacharias and Elizabeth being so faithful, even praying for a child long after child-bearing years? Is not the salvation of an unsaved soul that the LORD has put on my heart, even more important? Are you not to pray until you get an answer? (Luk 1:13)**
- **How indicative is my prayer life of this? Is my prayer life one of persistence and perseverance, until it is answered? (Luk 1:18)**
- **Is God calling me to do something extraordinary for Him? I see what it is going to cost me to obey Him! I have to pull back under the beauty of this surrender, saying to Him, yes, I will surrender my life toward Your purposes, realizing that one day there may be those eternally impacted by the surrender that I made! (Luk 1:38)**

CLOSING SONG – (Luk 1:46) And Mary said: My soul magnifies (to celebrate with praise and extol with words!) the Lord.

MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD Chris Tomlin/Daniel Carson (3:31/3:34)

Good news of great joy For every woman, every man This will be a sign to you
A baby born in Bethlehem Come and worship Do not be afraid
A company of angels Glory in the highest And on the earth peace among
Those on whom His favor rests Oh, come and worship Do not be afraid, no, no
My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord My soul magnifies the Lord He has done great things for me
Great things for me Unto you a child is born Unto us a Son is given Let every heart prepare His throne
And every nation under heaven Come and worship Do not be afraid, no, no
My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord My soul magnifies the Lord He has done great things for me
Great things for me My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord My soul magnifies the Lord
He has done great things for me Great things for me Of His government there will be no end
He'll establish it with His righteousness And He shall reign on David's throne
And His name shall be from this day on Wonderful, Counselor Everlasting Father
Wonderful, Counselor His name shall be Everlasting Father Oh, yeah

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Luke Chapter 2!