

“The Annunciation to John”

Luke 1:5-25

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I. Introduction

- A. Luke is the gospel of praise and prayer; of tender human interest and heavenly grace. It is fitting, therefore, that he should open with a scene in the temple at the hour of prayer. It is a divine promise that fills our hearts with wonder and joy.
 - 1. This promise concerns the birth of the one who would prepare the way of the Messiah.
 - 2. Luke, the historian, gives us the time and setting of this opening scene.
 - a) “The days of Herod, the King of Judea (Luke 1:5).
 - b) The King is Herod the Great—the first of several rulers from the Herodian dynasty who are named in Scripture. This Herod ruled from 37-4 B.C. He was an Idumean, a descendant of Esau. He was a very ruthless ruler—wicked and cunning.
 - c) These were indeed dark days for the nation of Israel.
 - d) The days were spiritually dark, but the light was coming.
 - 1) No matter how dark, God always has a witness and His people.
 - 3. Our story has three movements:
 - a) The supernatural appearance
 - b) The prophetic utterance
 - c) The unbelieving silence

II. The Supernatural Appearance (Luke 1:5-12)

- A. The person of our story (Luke 1:5-7)
 - 1. The righteous suffer (Luke 1:6-7)
 - 2. J.C. Ryle- *“the grace of God exempts no one from trouble.”*
 - 3. They still served God
 - 4. Their marriage was strong because of a spiritual compatibility
- B. The occasion of the appearance (v.v. 8-10)
 - 1. The setting
- C. The Supernatural encounter (v.v. 11-12)
 - 1. God’s perfect timing (Luke 1:11)
 - 2. The holy place
 - 3. Why the fear?

III. The Prophetic Utterance (Luke 1:13-17)

- A. A Son is promised (Luke 1:13-14)
 - 1. God’s delays are not His denials (Luke 1:13)
 - 2. Illustration- My mother-in-law
 - 3. J.C. Ryle- *“No children cause such true joy as those who have the grace of God.”*
- B. The Son’s character (Luke 1:15)
 - 1. The nature of true greatness
 - 2. Illustration- Samuel at the House of Jesse

C. The Son's ministry (Luke 1:16-17)

1. Mark 9:5-6
2. Jesus is God (Luke 1:16-17)
3. Isaiah 40:3-5
4. The character of a successful ministry
 - a) "many turning to the Lord their God" (Luke 1:16)

IV. The Unbelieving Silence (Luke 1:18-25)

A. Zechariah's response (Luke 1:18)

1. Reasons why he should not have doubted:
 - a) He knew Scripture—God had done it in the past (Isaac, Samson, Samuel)
 - b) He was a priest, not an atheist
 - c) He was offering a prayer
 - d) He was confronted by an angel
2. He was a man just like us!
3. Israel out of the promised land (Luke 1:19-20)

V. Conclusion

A. God always keeps His promises! (Luke 1:24-25)

1. "There is nothing hard for the Lord" (Jeremiah 32:17)

B. We should not only count our blessings, but we should remember where they come from and give thanks to God!

C. God takes unbelief very seriously!

1. Same for us- Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24 NIV).
2. "What must we do to do the works God requires? Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent'" (John 6:28-29).