

— Luke 1.1-17 —
Luke's Advent of Christ 1
God Goes On The Move Again

Lk 1.1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 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, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

► The human author is _____, the “beloved physician,” Paul’s missionary partner and secretary. Luke would have written with _____ approval and authority, for his gospel was intended especially for _____ converted on their missionary journeys. This is confirmed by the patron, Theophilus, “_____.”

Col 4.14 Luke the beloved physician ... greet[s] you ... 18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

Gal 1.11 [T]he gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2Cor 11.5 I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles ... 12.2 [F]ourteen years ago ... [I] was caught up to the third heaven ... 4 ... and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter ... 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me ... 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

► The times into which Jesus was born were not _____ times – that’s what Luke is signaling to us: (1) Thru the barrenness of E, which is part of an OT theme in which God’s point is that fallen Man is incapable of begetting the Promised Seed & Savior. As a microcosm of Mankind, _____ was also barren. There was always a _____ of believers who walked with God faithfully, but Israel as a whole did not. (2) Thru the reign of _____, king of Judea, one of the most narcissistic, ruthless kings in history. (3) Besides all that, it had been _____ years since God had spoken to Israel thru the prophets.

Eze 37.1 [T]he Spirit of the LORD... set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones ... 3 And He said to me, ... 11 ... Son of Man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They ... say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’”

Isa 54.1 “Shout for joy, O barren one ... for the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous than the sons of the married woman,” says the LORD ... 3 For you will spread abroad ... and your descendants will possess nations ... 4 Fear not ... you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood ... 5 For your husband is your Maker, whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, ... the God of all the earth.”

► Z & E being “righteous” and “blameless” does not mean they were _____ or trying to _____ their salvation. It means they _____ in the Messiah to whom the promises and sacrifices pointed, they walked faithfully with God, and they confessed their _____, looking to the promises. Zacharias means _____ Elizabeth means _____.

Together they mean that God is the promise-_____, promise-_____ God.

Exo 12.23 “[W]hen He sees the blood [of the Passover lamb,] ... [He] will pass over ... and not allow the destroyer... into your houses” ... 19.1 In the third month after ... Israel had gone out of ... Egypt ... they came to ... Sinai ... 20.1 And God [said,] ... 2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt ... 3 You shall have no other Gods before Me” ... 29.36 “And you shall offer a bull every day as a sin offering for atonement”

1Cor 5.7 Christ, our passover, was sacrificed for us.

Mat 22.37 Jesus said ..., “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

► Priests’ normal duties were as local _____ of the synagogues. Z was chosen by lot to burn incense in the temple — a _____ in a lifetime honor. The incense represented the _____ of God’s people.

Ps 141.2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense

Rv 8.4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 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."

► The angel tells Z not to _____, which is the most oft repeated command in the NT. Z's prayer that is "heard" is the one he is offering, which would center around God delivering His people thru the _____, whose coming dovetails with God granting Z & E's prayer for a son. God naming your son was a great _____, a sign he would belong to the _____ in a special way. John means _____.

Lk 5.10 Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid" (cf. Mt 14.27; 17.7; 28.10; Mk 5.36; 6.50; Lk 8.50; 12.4; Jn 6.20; Acts 19.9)

14 "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 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. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 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."

► The angel quotes _____, which contains _____ to Israel for spiritual sullenness, as well as promise that God will _____ Israel's chronic unfaithfulness. God will suddenly to come to his _____ thru one called the "_____ of the Covenant" and the "_____ of Righteousness," who will bring "healing in his wings" to the faithful, but judgment on the unfaithful. God will also send _____ the prophet, who will turn the _____ of the fathers to the children and of the children to the fathers. Z & E's son will be filled with the _____ from the womb, and be a _____ Nazarite dedicated to the LORD.

Mal 3.1 [T]he Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight ... 4.1 For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble ... 2 But to you who

fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings ... 5 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.

Num 6.2 When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the LORD, 3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink ... 4 ... [H]e shall not eat anything that is produced by the grape vine ... 5 All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD (e.g., Judges 13.5; 1Sa 1.11).

► The big picture message Luke is giving Gentile converts is that in Christ, they have been _____ into God's one true historic people, so the history and heritage of believing _____ is now theirs.

Rom 4.11 [Abraham is] the father of all ... who believe, [whether] they are uncircumcised ... 12 ... [or] circumcised ... 11.13 I speak to you Gentiles ... 16 [I]f the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree ... 20 [Y]ou stand by faith ... 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Gal 3.7 [O]nly those who are of faith are sons of Abraham ... 29 [I]f you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1Cor 10.1 I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers ... passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all at the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

► Of all the indicators that would attend any true revival and reformation, God names only _____ thru Malachi. When God turns our faces up to Him, the very next place they turn is down to our _____. Fathers are the _____ of their children. Fathers, don't _____ it.

Mal 4.6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers

Prov 17.6 Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.