

Luke Chapter 1

Introduction:

Authorship: Luke - “Light Giving” - “Luminous.”

- Luke is one of three books in the Bible that were written by Gentiles. (Daniel Ch. 4, Luke, and Acts.)

Time Written: Luke was a physician who wrote this Gospel right around **60 AD.**

- Luke was more than likely a servant or slave under his master / patron Theophilus.
- Luke was a close friend and traveling companion to the Apostle Paul who refers to Luke as “the beloved physician”. (**Colossians 4:14**)
- It is believed that Luke wrote this Gospel and the book of Acts while in Rome with Paul during his first imprisonment.

2 Timothy 4:11 “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark, and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.”

- Luke was written primarily to the Greeks, presenting Jesus as the “**Son of Man,**” the perfect man, portraying Jesus in His humanity, describing what Jesus felt and experienced.
- The Greeks were fascinated with Aristotle’s ideal republic and Plato’s ideal man so Luke writes to them about the perfect Man and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Theme: Our Lord’s journey as the “**Son of Man**” - The perfect Man.

- The Gospel of Luke refers to Jesus’ prayer life more than any Gospel, His sympathy and compassion are also mentioned more frequently.
- The ensign or symbol of Luke is a man.
- Luke’s account is different than the others because he is not a witness to the events in the Gospel. This book is the result of an investigative technique of writing, he interviews the principals and records the results.
- Early church fathers / historians Jerome and Eusebius indicate that Luke was from Antioch.

- Early sources provide a fitting epitaph for Luke stating “He served the Lord without distraction, having neither wife nor children, and at the age of 84 fell asleep in Boeatia, being full of the Holy Spirit.” (Boeatia; region of Greece that included Corinth.)
- Luke’s name only appears 3 times in the Bible, but not in his letters – only in Paul’s letters to the Colossians, Timothy, and Philemon.

Key verse: Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Verses 1-4 constitute Luke’s introduction or salutation:

V: 1 Similar introduction, a continuation of what began in Luke.

Acts 1:1 “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.”

- NKJV “narrative; KJV “declaration,” an “account” - not a story. This is not mythological, nor is it a fairy tale as the word “story” might imply - this is a historical account set in order so that we can begin to know the “Son of Man.”
- It is an attempt to record an orderly account of the events, as “many” have done before him. This account like the other Gospels was guided by the Holy Spirit.

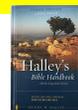
2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

- And being equipped, that we would be able to explain, to give an answer as to what we believe and why we believe it.

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and always be ready to give a defense / answer to everyone who ask you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear:”

V: 2 Seemingly acknowledging the previous Gospel accounts written by Matthew and Mark, and perhaps others that were not preserved as the Gospels were.

- Halley’s Bible Handbook - How we got the Bible - page 741.
- Luke investigated, he interviewed eye witnesses to the events he describes.
- It is typically eye witness accounts that establish facts in our legal system.



1 John 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 2:3 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation; which at the first began to be spoken to us by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those that heard Him;”

- These same persons were not just witnesses, eye witnesses to these events, they were also “*ministers of the Word.*” Servants of the Word, servants of our Lord Jesus that took an active role in spreading the Word, sharing the Gospel. Once you’ve really heard it you want others to know.

V: 3 It seemed good to Him, no doubt prompted by the Holy Spirit.

“*having had perfect understanding ... from the very first...*” from the beginning, but the Greek word used:

- Very first: (G-509) “another”, from the beginning.

“*Most excellent Theophilus*” Theo-philus: “God Lover” or “Lover of God.”

- Most doctors at that time were slaves, servants of rich patrons.
- It is thought that Luke was the former servant of Theophilus, that perhaps he had been released to Christian service.

Acts 1:1 “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.”

- The Gospel of Luke is that “**former account.**”

V: 4 Theophilus has already been instructed in the basic things of Christianity, now Luke is helping him to move on from these basic things to a deeper understanding and maturity.

Hebrews 6:1-2 “¹Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²of the doctrine of baptism, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

1 Timothy 3:17 Complete / mature

Ephesians 4:11-15 (turn to / read)

- In V:3 Luke describes his “perfect understanding” - here in verse 4 he expresses his desire that Theophilus would know the certainty - that Theophilus would have that same “perfect understanding” that Luke himself enjoys.
- Have you ever been frustrated in your attempt to communicate something that you know to others in a way that they would know it the way you do? Trying to convey to others what we know of the Gospel, that they would believe like we do?
- I believe that is the heart of the human author of this Gospel, and the intent of the Holy Spirit as well. That Theophilus and the rest of us who read this letter would have perfect understanding of the Gospel message and that Jesus is truly the Son of God.
- This Gospel, like the Gospel of John was written that we might believe, that what we’ve heard and learned might be confirmed to our hearts.

John 20:31 “But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His name.”

2 Peter 1:10 “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”

- Basically, know what you believe, and why you believe it.

“That you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”

“Know” (G-1921) “epignosko” - “gnosko” - to know intimately, thoroughly, by experience.

“Instructed” (G-2727). “Katecheo,” - someone who is being taught the basics of Christianity – from which we get the word “Catechism”.

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- Verses 1-4 was the salutation, his introduction.

V: 5 Now he begins the telling of the History, or if you break that word down to “His-story.” (Narrative, account)

- This information about Zacharias, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist is only found in this Gospel.
- The “days of Herod” refer to king Herod, or “Herod the Great”, the same king who would attempt to kill the Messiah, the true King of Israel by slaughtering all the small boys of Bethlehem.
- The “days of Herod, king of Judea” is simply a time stamp, a common reference.

- Zacharias, a priest and his wife Elizabeth, were both of the tribe of Levi, of the family of Aaron – the priestly lineage.
- Zacharias: *“Remembered of Jehovah.”* Elizabeth: *“Oath of God” / “Promise of God.”*
- *“The division of Abijah”* is a reference to the rotation that the various groups of priests served in. They would take turns for a set period of time to go and serve in the Temple doing the various priestly tasks, then return home until their turn came around again.

V: 6 Righteous before God – obedient not only to the letter of the Law, but to the Spirit of the Law.

2 Corinthians 3:6 *“Who also has made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*

- The only other person described this way is the Apostle Paul, and he is the one who wrote:

Romans 3:10 *“As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”*

- Patriarchs Jacob & Joseph: scripture examines, details their lives – but never says anything negative about them – we may infer it or presume it ourselves knowing that what Paul said is true, but God’s word doesn’t declare it.

V: 7 *“But”* - they were righteous... but... in contrast to their righteousness they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren.

- Blameless before God, yet barren – from a cultural standpoint, these were contradictory terms; blessed and cursed – both cannot be.
- They had no child because God had determined they should not have any until the time of His choosing.

Psalm 127:3 *“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward.”*

- When God wants to draw attention to a birth - He withholds it for a season.
- Sarah / Isaac, Samson’s mom / Samson, Hannah / Samuel, Elizabeth / John the Baptist.
- What better way to herald a special birth than to demonstrate the fact that it is a special miracle of God’s design and timing?

“*Well advanced in years*” means literally “bent over” with age, we might be thinking they were in their 70’s or 80’s, but the priests also had a rule, mandatory retirement at 50. So Zechariah must have been close to that, 59 ½ or so.

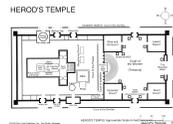
V: 8 There were about 20,000 priests who did the actual work in the Temple apart from the chief priests. They each served for two weeks out of the year.

- Abijah was a priest, the head of a priestly family from whom when David divided the priesthood into 24 divisions or courses he named one of those courses after Abijah, the 8th course. (8 = **New beginning**.).

V: 9 “*His lot*”, they cast lots to see who got what jobs in the Temple when they arrived for their duties.

Proverbs 16:33 “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”

- His “duty” or “lot” was considered an extreme privilege – offering incense / prayer upon the altar of incense in the Holy place. This privilege was only allowed once in their lifetime, if it happened at all. Being so advanced in years this is probably his last shot at this privilege.



- *Diagram of temple courts / Holy place.*

- The priest would go in to offer incense and prayer on behalf of the people, and when he came out he would then bless the people on behalf of God using the Aaronic blessing from Numbers Chapter 6.

Numbers 6:24-26 “²⁴The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

V: 10 There is a connection between praying and incense, a sweet fragrance to the Lord.

Psalms 141:2 “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

- The earthly was intended to be a type or model of the heavenly.

Revelation 8:3-4 “³And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.”

- **Scene:** Zacharias is inside offering incense and prayers, while a large number of people “multitude” are praying on the outside.

V: 11-12 Zacharias is in the midst of prayer when an angel of the Lord appears to him, an angelic messenger who identifies himself as Gabriel. (v:19)

Daniel 9:21 “Yes, and while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.”

- Zacharias was doing his job when the Lord spoke to him; Moses and David were both tending sheep when God called them, Peter, James, John were all working, mending their nets when Jesus called them, Matthew was at his tax collector’s table when God called him. They were all doing something, working, doing what God had called them to do.

Zechariah 4:10 “For who has despised the day of small things...?”

- Zacharias wasn’t just going through the motions, but he was startled and initially afraid.

V: 13 There has been 400 years of silence from the Lord and the first message is “do not be afraid.” Zacharias has the privilege of being the first one to hear God speak in 400 years.

- “Fear not” – one of the most often repeated commands in the New Testament.

“*Your prayer is heard...*” Question: Which prayer? Context.

“*Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son...*”

- Considering how old Zacharias and Elizabeth are they had probably stopped praying for children for themselves – it would seem likely that they were praying for Messiah to come, perhaps for the salvation of Israel.
- God would now answer all those prayers in the person of Jesus!

Isaiah 65:24 “And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”

James 5:16 “... the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

“... *and you shall call his name John.*”

- “John” is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name “Yohannan”, which means “God is gracious.”

V: 14 Given both their age and the angelic announcement it would be considered miraculous on all counts.

- Add to that that this would be a son; there was a real difference between the recognition of the birth of a son versus a daughter.
- Looking farther down the road in a prophetic sense, this son was to be the herald who would come before the Messiah – meaning His coming, the coming of the Messiah was at hand as well.

Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts.”

V: 15 He will be great in the sight of the Lord... later Jesus would describe John:

Matthew 11:9-11 “⁹But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰For this is he of whom it is written: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.” ¹¹Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist;..”

- Describing a Nazarite vow. There were two type of Nazarite vows; one for a set time, similar to fasting. The other was a life time commitment which usually resulted from a prophetic announcement concerning the birth of the son.
- **Numbers Ch. 6** describes the elements of the “Nazarite vow”.
 1. No wine, strong drink, or anything made from grapes or the fruit of the vine.
 2. No eating of unclean things, being defiled by dead things, carcasses, etc.
 3. No hair cuts.
 - No particular mention of marriage or lack of it.
 - Women could take a Nazarite vow.
- To hear that your prayers are answered, to be blessed with a son then to hear.
 1. He shall be great in the Lord.
 2. He shall be filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb.
 3. That his life is consecrated to the Lord, a Nazarite!

4. That he will come in the spirit and power of Elijah and be the prophesied forerunner of the Messiah.
- Even if the angel hadn't struck him dumb, he would have been hard pressed to describe the blessing and the joy of this encounter. God's overwhelming, never ending grace.

Ephesians 3:20-21 “²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

V: 16-17 “*He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.*”

- John's message was one of preparation was very simple: “**Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**”
- In Matthew Ch. 3, we see so many people responding to John's message that the Pharisees send men out to investigate and see what is going on – the bottom line is that many of the people responded, but the religious establishment did not.
- This all happened as it was prophesied: Malachi 3:1, Malachi 4:5-6

Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, says the Lord of hosts.”

Malachi 4:5-6 “⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. ⁶And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

- God obviously has a plan for John's life, Zacharias and Elizabeth are being used mightily of God, what a privilege!
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- Zacharias is in the midst of an encounter with an angel from God while he's in the Holy Place of the Temple, offering incense and prayers unto the Lord.
- He's been told that not only will he and Elizabeth have a son, but that their son is to be the prophet coming in the spirit of Elijah preparing the way for the Messiah.

V: 18 Zacharias' prayer may simply have been perfunctionary, praying but not really believing that God would do it. He's just received some really good news, perhaps from his perspective news that is “too good to be true...”

- Zacharias is a good man, he's been declared such by God Himself. Maybe for a moment he's forgotten who he's talking to - an angel from God, maybe he's forgotten where he's at, in the the Temple itself, in the Holy Place at the altar of incense, and perhaps he's forgotten in that moment that there is nothing impossible with God!

Matthew 19:26 “Jesus looked at them and said to them, “with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

- The difficulty of a task is always measured by the capacity of the one doing the work.
- It comes down to faith: Church prayer meeting during a severe drought, Pastor rebuked the congregation because none brought an umbrella.

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know unto God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- Zacharias is seeing with his eyes - dis-believing eyes at that moment – looking in the mirror and saying that he and his wife are too old for this.

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

V: 19 Gabriel is a Messianic messenger (man of God; God my strength) last seen about 500 years prior speaking with Daniel, announcing the coming of the Messiah.

Daniel 9:21 “Yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being cause to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.”

- Gabriel declares himself to Zacharias, that he stands in the very presence of God – that he bares his message directly from God – a message that should be glad tidings – good news – and you don't believe it?

Isaiah 40:13 “Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being His counselor has taught Him?”

- Zacharias should be rejoicing, instead he is questioning.
- God's purposes will be accomplished, they won't be hindered by you. Don't be put under a guilt trip that somehow we are thwarting the purposes of God, that somehow it's our fault that God isn't working. God is going to work His purposes whether we believe it or not.

Isaiah 55:11 “So shall My Word be that goes froth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

V: 20 Consequence of disbelief: You want a sign, here’s one and Zacharias is struck dumb.

Paul declared;

2 Corinthians 4:13 “And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak;”

- So in this case it’s the opposite, he didn’t believe and now he couldn’t speak.
- Later in this chapter when Mary is approached with the good news that she will bear a child who will be the Messiah – she is confused and asks how this can be seeing that she’s not known a man. She isn’t disbelieving, just curious, the angel Gabriel goes on to explain that she will conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Zacharias is older, he’s a priest, he’s well versed in scripture, yet disbelieving, when he should have known better.

Luke 12:48 “... for everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required ...”

James 3:1 “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

- Zacharias’s question wasn’t just idle curiosity it was the sin of disbelief.

We’re warned in Hebrews:

Hebrews 3:12 “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living God.”

V: 21-22 The people were outside praying and waiting for Zacharias to come back out – being surprised that it should take so long.

- They were waiting for the blessing; but he couldn’t give it because of the sin of disbelief.
- Zacharias having been struck dumb comes out and can’t express his glorious experience, and the privilege he’s been granted.
- Story: Pastor playing hooky to play golf on Sunday morning / hole in one.

V: 23 Zacharias was still there to finish his course in the Temple – during which time he couldn't speak, then he went home to his house.

V: 24-25 Just as the angel had said, Elizabeth conceives – but hides herself for the first five months, she didn't tell anybody.

- Cautious? Prior disappointments? Now she understands that God is removing her reproach.

V: 26 Now the focus turns to Mary, Elizabeth's cousin.

- In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
- Gabriel is a Messianic messenger; his appearances deal primarily with heralding the birth of Jesus.

V: 27 The angel Gabriel appears to the virgin Mary who is betrothed to Joseph.

- Marriage was by arrangement of the parents, a child could be engaged from birth or when they were very little, but when they got within a year there was an official "betrothal" – it was a contractual agreement.
- When a girl was betrothed it was the same as being married, just not living together. If her betrothed husband died, she was considered a widow.
- Or to nullify a betrothal, it took a bill of divorcement.
- Gabriel: "Man of God."
- Mary: form of Miriam, "Rebellious" or "Bitter".
- Joseph: "Adding"
- The term "virgin" is used twice in this verse as if to be emphatic.
- The actual word is "parthenos" (G-3933), literally a maiden, an un-married daughter, by implication a virgin.
- Paul uses the same word in **2 Corinthians 11:2** describing how he wants to present us as a chaste bride without spot or wrinkle, virtuous.

2 Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

- It is supposed that Mary is somewhere between 15–16 years of age based on typical Eastern customs of the time.

- The virgin birth is the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy.

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shalt bruise his heel.”

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin (“almah” H-5959, sexually pure, literal sense) shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

- The virgin birth circumvents the sin nature that is present in all men. Being conceived by the Holy Spirit without sin means that there is no original sin in Jesus to be atoned for – then being the perfect sacrifice, spotless and without blemish – He is qualified to be the propitiation for our sin.

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Romans 5:18-19 “¹⁸Therefore as through one man’s sin judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as my one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

- Because Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and did not inherit a sin nature, because he led a sinless life he was uniquely qualified to redeem us, which is why Paul declared:

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Speaking of Christ:

1 Peter 2:22 “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.”

- Without the virgin birth there is no Christianity.

V: 28 “**highly favored**” as opposed to “highly qualified” – God is with you, you are blessed among women!

Wm. McDonald:

1. Gabriel greeted her, he did not worship her or pray to her.
2. He did not say she was full of grace; or that she was blessed above all women, but that she is highly favored and blessed among women.

- “Favored” (G-5487) charitoo, khar-ee-to'-o; from G-5485; to grace, i.e. indue with special honor:--make accepted, be highly favored.

- This word is only used one other time in the Bible; not concerning Mary, but us.

Ephesians 1:6 “To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he has made us accepted (G-5487) charitoo, khar-ee-to’-o) in the beloved.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed way; behold, all things are become new.”

V: 29-30 She’s never seen anything like this before! (Stunned...)

- Gabriel tells her not to be afraid – because she must be...
- Don’t be afraid because you have found favor with God.

Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

V: 31 You shall conceive a son and call his name Jesus.

- “Jesus” = Joshua = Yeshuah = “Jehovah is Salvation”.
- God will use a natural reproductive process in a super natural miraculous way.

This will be the literal fulfillment:

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

V: 32-33 Gabriel describes attributes and characteristics:

1. **He shall be great.** Here we see that ordinary words simply fail to describe adequately – because this is a tremendous understatement.
2. **Son of the Highest,** meaning the Son of God.

Hebrews 4:14 “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”

Philippians 2:9-11 “⁹Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

3. **Given the throne of his “father” / ancestor king David.**

Psalm 132:11 “The LORD has sworn in truth to David He will not turn from it: “I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.”

4. Reign over the house of Israel “for ever.”

Psalm 146:10 “The LORD shall reign forever - Your God, O Zion, to all generations.”

5. He shall have a never ending kingdom. His Kingdom is eternal.

Isaiah 9:6-7 “⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from that time forward even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

Daniel 7:13-14 “¹³I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.”

V: 34 Mary’s response: Not a question of disbelief but one of function.

- Mary has an understanding of the birds and the bee’s – one of the benefits of an agrarian culture and a disciplined family life.
- This is corroborated by Gabriel’s response to her, to Mary’s response, and to Elizabeth’s proclamation later.
- “*Know*” (G-1097) ginosko, to "know" intimately, by experience; in this case speaking of a physical relationship.

Gabriel explains:

V: 35 “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;*” - The same word used to describe the presence of God in the Holy of Holies, over the mercy seat of God! The shekinah glory of God hovering over, enveloping the mercy seat with His glory.

- The Holy Spirit will come upon you in a miraculous way – this will be God’s son, His only “begotten.”

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...”

- “Begotten” (G-3439). monogenes, only born, single of it’s kind, i.e. sole:--only (begotten, child).

John 1:1-3 “¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

V: 36-37 As Mary is processing this information Gabriel informs her that her older cousin Elizabeth, who has been barren all these years is 6 months pregnant with a son – and this is the doing of God, a miraculous event.

Matthew 19:26 “... with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

- People say they have a problem with the virgin birth; but their problem really isn’t the virgin birth, it’s their concept of God. If our God can create all things then what can’t He do? If we can get past **Genesis 1:1** then we’re home free.

Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too difficult for You.”

V: 38 Have your way “Lord”. Total submission and acceptance of God’s will.

- This speaks much to the character of Mary. This is all miraculous, and awesome, and an incredible privilege to be a part of – but it’s also going to create some very personal problems when she’s discovered to be pregnant seemingly out of wedlock.
- Knowing all of that, she willingly submits to the will of God.
 1. In this verse Mary submits her **body** to the Lord.
 2. In **verse 46** she submits her **soul** to the Lord.
 3. In **verse 47** she submits her **spirit** to the Lord.

Mary is a picture of what Paul describes:

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- Mary has been visited by an angelic messenger, she’s received the message and is willing to be used of God.
- The virgin birth is set in motion, as is the birth of the herald who will come before the King.

V: 39-40 Mary leaves her home in Nazareth quickly “with haste” and makes her way to Judah where Zacharias and Elisabeth live. (City of Judea / Hebron? / Carson city)

- Why quickly? Possibly to avoid being found out as being pregnant, giving her time to come to grips with what is happening without interference.
- Guided by the Spirit, possibly to see with her own eyes, confirmation of what the angel had said about her cousin Elizabeth in her old age being pregnant.

V: 41 The angel had told Zacharias that his son would be V: 15 “... filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb...”

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”

- The baby John the Baptist leaped because he recognized the fact that he was in the presence of his Lord, something that can only be done by virtue of the Holy Spirit.

The two disciples on the way to Emmaus:

Luke 24:32 “And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?”

- Elizabeth is also filled with the Holy Spirit, who empowers her to exercise the gifts of the Spirit:

V: 42 Elizabeth begins to testify loudly / boldly:

“*Blessed are you among women, blessed is the fruit of your womb:*”

- How would Elizabeth know that Mary was pregnant? Why would she even suspect a single woman of good reputation of this?
- Elizabeth is exercising a gift of the Spirit because she’s filled with the Spirit – she’s been given a “Word of knowledge.”

Romans 12:6-8 begins a listing of the gifts of the Spirit. Some view these gifts as administrative giftings: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy.

1 Corinthians 12:8-28 Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues, helps, administrations.

- Not only does she know that Mary is expecting, but she knows who she’s expecting – the “Expectation of Israel.”

V: 43 Elizabeth also recognized that she was in the presence of her Lord - again because she was filled with the Spirit.

- This is a little different because here we have the older honoring the younger, which is the opposite of the norm.
- Elizabeth recognizes in the Spirit what a privilege she's been granted to be in the presence of her Lord and King.
- Her declaration is also an expression of humility:

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

V: 44 As soon as she was within earshot:

- John the Baptist who is filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb leapt for joy in the presence of his Lord.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

Psalms 16:11 "You will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

V: 45 Elizabeth again speaks a word of knowledge, describing the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel which she wasn't present to hear. She then moves to prophesying of it's fulfillment.

- Between the miracle of Elizabeth bearing a son in her old age, the Messianic angel Gabriel's testimony, and Elizabeth's spirit filled proclamation and prophesy; Mary has plenty of assurance that what is taking place is of the Lord.

[Speaking of the disciples after the ascension of Jesus:](#)

Mark 16:20 "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

- Elizabeth highlights Mary's faith – she believed, and because of that she experiences the power of God.
- Mary is never referred to in the Bible as the "mother of God" – which would be a doctrinal absurdity – God pre-existed Mary, God has no mother. She is referred to 3X's as "**Mary the mother of Jesus**", but there is a big difference.

V: 46 Now Mary responds and begins to testify / pray in what is referred to as the "Magnificat." Just as the verse states she begins to magnify the Lord.

Psalm 35:9 “My soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation.”

- Hannah also rejoiced in the Lord as she was given a son to be used of God.

1 Samuel 2:1 “And Hannah prayed and said: my heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation.”

- Mary’s praise is filled with references to the Old Testament; she was devout and seemingly well versed in the scriptures.

Psalm 34:2-3 “²My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.”

V: 47 Again, this is complete worship, a complete yielding: **Body V: 38**, **Soul V: 46**, and now **Spirit**.

- Mary in her spirit is rejoicing in “*God my savior*.” – acknowledging that she like all of us needs a savior.

Isaiah 12:2 “Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.”

Psalm 13:5 “But I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.”

“*God my savior*.” – again, acknowledging that she like all of us needs a savior.

Romans 3:10, 23 “¹⁰As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one;” - “²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

V: 48 She’s acknowledging that she’s not worthy of this honor, because of her lowly estate, yet God has blessed her with it.

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

- Going back to the prayer of Hannah:

1 Samuel 2:8 “He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory.”

- From now on, all generations will call her blessed:

Luke 11:27 “And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!”

V: 49 Mary is acknowledging the tremendous privilege of being the human vessel that God would use to bring forth the Messiah into the world.

- That is true of any ministry, and the man or the woman that God would use:

1 Timothy 1:12 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

- This is also a declaration that God has conceived in her a child by the power of the Holy Spirit just as He said back in **V: 35**.
- “**Overshadow**” - The same word used to describe the presence of God in the Holy of Holies, over the mercy seat of God! The shekinah glory of God hovering over, enveloping the mercy seat with His glory.
- The Holy Spirit coming upon her in a miraculous, supernatural way.

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...”

- “Begotten” (G-3439). monogenes, only born, single of it's kind, i.e. sole:--only (begotten, child).

“^{49b}... *and holy is His name.*”

Psalm 138:2 “I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

Psalm 71:19 “Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?”

Psalm 111:9 “He sent redemption to His people: He has commanded His covenant for ever: Holy and awesome is His name.”

V: 50 Mary is quoting and demonstrating her knowledge of scripture – and she’s filled with the Holy Spirit. If you have Jesus in you – what are you?

Mary is declaring the mercy of God:

Psalm 103:17 “But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children.”

Deuteronomy 7:9 “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him, and keep His commandments;”

- Mary is saying, the child in her womb is the one being spoken of – he is the fulfillment of these scriptures.

V: 51 Quoting & fulfilling:

Psalm 98:1 “Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.”

Isaiah 40:10 “Behold, the Lord God will come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.”

Proverbs 3:34 “Surely He scorns the scorers: but He gives grace to the lowly.”

V: 52 Glorifying God, speaking of His power: Daniel chapters 4-5; Nebuchadnezzar and Belteshazzar.

- King Nebuchadnezzar made like an animal, feeding on all fours.

Psalm 75:6-7 “⁶For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. ⁷But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.”

- Think about King Saul, put down from his throne, King David, lowly, exalted to the throne.

V: 53 He takes care of the hungry, and sends the rich away empty.

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

- The hungry, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; where do they end up? Heaven.
- The rich just think they have what they need, but they are sent away empty - to the emptiness of hell.

Revelation 3:17 “Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing - and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

Psalm 107:8-9 “⁸Oh that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of Men! ⁹For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.”

V: 54 He has not forgotten His promises to Israel, He is their help.

- “He has” – 7X’s (48, 49, 51x2, 52, 53, 54) – giving glory to God for the great things “He has done.”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.”

Psalm 98:3 “He has remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

- Mary is praising God with the Word of God!

V: 55 She is affirming the promises made to “Abraham, and to his seed” as being fulfilled.

Genesis 17:9 “And God said to Abraham: As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.”

Genesis 22:18 “And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...”

Romans 11:26-28 “²⁶And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins. ²⁸Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.”

Galatians 3:16 “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made...”

- Mary sees Jesus as the fulfillment of all of God’s promises!

V: 56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for 3 months. Elizabeth was already 6 months pregnant so Mary stayed for the birth of John the Baptist and heads home 3-4 months pregnant.

Review:

1. Luke describes Zacharias and Elizabeth as both righteous before God, and advanced in years.
2. Zacharias was in that privileged place of offering incense and prayers in the Holy place at the altar of incense.

3. While in the Holy place, he's visited by the angel Gabriel who tells him that he and Elizabeth will have a son – and that he's to be the forerunner of the Messiah – and they are to name him John – “which means God is gracious”.
 4. Zacharias doesn't believe the angel so he's struck dumb until all these events unfold.
 5. In the mean time, Mary the future mother of Jesus has also been visited with the message that she too will have a baby that will be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit – she responds in faith and yields herself completely to God.
 6. As Mary and Elizabeth come together, the baby within Elizabeth jumps for joy – being filled with the Holy Spirit even in the womb – rejoicing in his Lord.
 7. Mary magnifies the Lord, praising Him and extolling Him. Mary's visit with Zacharias and Elizabeth is complete with the birth of John and she returns home which is where we'll pick it up next week.
-

V: 57 The focus turns again to John the Baptist.

- Elizabeth brings forth a son: As promised!

Luke 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.”

Here we witness the fulfillment of God's Word, He always keeps His Word:

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.”

V: 58 A testimony! God is glorified through transparency.

Psalms 113:9 “He makes the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!”

- And they rejoiced with her (**V: 14**) – in part because she had a baby in general, but in particular because she bore a son as opposed to a girl.
- No doubt Zacharias and Elizabeth were rejoicing at the fulfillment of God's Word:

We're called to the same thing:

Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

V: 59 Boys were circumcised on the 8th day. The same day that an enzyme in the blood develops and causes the blood to coagulate.

- Also a requirement of the Levitical law.

Leviticus 12:3 “And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.”

- Circumcision pre-dates the Law – it goes back to the covenant with Abram:
- A male child wasn't considered to be a Jew until they entered into that covenant by circumcision. There are three ways to be Jewish; by ¹culture, ²ethnically, ³religiously; physical circumcision encompasses all three. Because of these variables when a Jewish person becomes a Christian, they are still Jewish ethnically and culturally even though not religiously.

Genesis 17:10-14 Turn to / read

- Through his obedience Zacharias is living up to his name = “Yah remembered”
- Their family and friends began to assume that the child's name would be Zacharias after his father.

V: 60-63 Even though Zacharias had been unable to talk for the last 9 months, he had certainly communicated the message from Gabriel to his wife Elizabeth, she reacted strongly to the suggestion that the baby be named otherwise.

- Both Elizabeth and Zacharias resist their attempt to mis-name the child, they had been given specific instruction on what the child's name would be and they intended to abide by that in obedience to God's Word to them.
- His name would be John = “Yohannan” = “God is gracious”

V: 64 As all the things that Gabriel had spoken come to pass, Zacharias' tongue is loosed. The first thing Zacharias did as soon as he was able to speak again was to praise God!

Psalm 51:15 “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.”

- We know from the following verses that Zacharias is praising God for visiting Israel, and for redeeming His people.

- He is also praising God not only for his Son, but also for what the birth of his son represents, the heralding of the Messiah.

Side note:

- The Bible tells us that Children truly are a heritage from the Lord;

Psalm 127:3 “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

- It is horrific that we engage in the slaughter of our own children, 1.5 million babies are aborted in the U.S. every year.
- Zechariah was only able to speak when all the things that he was told and initially disbelieved by the angel had actually come to pass.

V: 65 News travels fast, fear came upon them; they were seeing God move in their midst.

- Fear came upon them because all of a sudden God had visited His people and spoken for the 1st time in over 400 years.

Acts 2:43 “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

- Because they came to the sudden realization that God is real, and if He is real the day of judgment is real as well.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- Fear came upon them because the word of God had come true in front of them, God was proving Himself true and real – and if these things were true then all the rest was true as well – which might give many cause to fear – the judgment of God.
- John’s ministry was already taking place even though he was a child.

“^{66b}*And the hand of the Lord was with him.*” – God’s favor.

Psalm 80:17 “Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself.”

V: 67 Zacharias is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophecies.

Joel 2:28 “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.”

2 Peter 1:21 “For prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

V: 68-69 Zechariah didn't prophesy about John, he prophesied about Jesus!

- God visiting His people, Emmanuel is here – God with us.
- **Redeeming His people:** only Jesus could do that!

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.”

Ephesians 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

- To redeem means to set free by paying the price, it can refer to releasing a prisoner or liberating a slave.

Luke 4:18-19 “¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are oppressed, ¹⁹to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

- Jesus, the horn of our salvation, of the lineage of David – the promised Messiah.
- In OT, horn symbolizes power and victory – it contained the oil with which the kings and priests would be anointed.

V: 70 Speaking by the prophets since the world began, that takes us back to Genesis and the first Messianic prophecy.

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed;...”

Psalms 22:1, 18 “¹My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? – “¹⁸They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my clothing.”

Isaiah 53:4-5 “⁴Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

V: 71 “*That we should be saved...*”

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Saved from our “Enemies” – Satan & death - who would destroy us if they could.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 Corinthians 15:26 “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

- Each will be dealt with: God wins!

Revelation 19:10, 14 “¹⁰And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” – “¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

V: 72-73 To perform, to fulfill, the mercy promised to the fathers, basically that God would keep His word and do the things that He promised to Abraham.

Psalms 105:8-10 “⁸He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, ⁹the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, ¹⁰and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant.”

- Zacharias by the Spirit is declaring that this is the fulfillment of those things promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Genesis 12:2-3 “²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: ³And I will bless those that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

V: 74-75 Saved for a purpose! That we might serve Him all the days of our lives!

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and for Your pleasure they exist and were created.”

V: 76 Zacharias turns now and addresses his son, John the Baptist.

- That would JB’s mission, to be the herald that goes before the king, prepare the way for the king, the king is coming!

Matthew 3:1-3 “¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²and saying, “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” ³For this is

he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.”

V: 77 “*To give knowledge of salvation.*” How will all of this happen? By telling them that they were sinners in need of salvation. That through Jesus they could have the remission of their sin...

- That is how it starts for all of us, the realization that we’re sinners in need of a Savior.

Romans 3:10, 23 “¹⁰As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one;” - “²³For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- John was pointing people to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins.

John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.”

- Remission of sin, to send away, to dismiss, as a debt.

Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Psalms 32:1-2 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

Psalms 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

V: 78-79 The dawning of a new day, speaking of Jesus: “*The Day Spring.*”

Malachi 4:2 “But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings;...”

- “*Day Spring*” = “new day”, the sun arising, God hath visited us: Emmanuel – God with us. The “Day Spring” “*from on high*” - from heaven = Jesus!

John 1:14 “And the word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth.”

- Zacharias is prophesying, quoting from Isaiah:

Isaiah 9:2 “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.”

Jesus is that light:

John 1:4 “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

“To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

- To show us the way to peace with God - which is through Jesus. (Right w/ God)

John 14:6 “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man comes to the Father except through Me.”

V: 80 We don't hear from Zacharias or Elizabeth any more, but we do certainly hear from John the Baptist:

- When we next encounter John the Baptist, he's not living the comfortable life of a priest, but living in the wilderness being prepared by God to preach the message of salvation.

Matthew 3:1-2 “¹In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ²and saying, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”