



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Lesson 3: Filled with the Holy Spirit Expectations: Are we to be John the Baptists? Luke 1:5-17

I. The Time Between the Testaments – +/- 400 years

- A. Alexander the Great, the Seleucids, Antiochus Epiphanes IV, Judas Maccabeus and Parthians
- B. Malachi 4
- C. “and the Word of the LORD came to...” nobody.

II. Luke 1:5-17

A. Luke and the Holy Spirit

- Mark mentions the Holy Spirit 6 times
- Matthew 12 times
- Luke’s gospel 17 times
- Luke’s Book of Acts 70 times - 40 times by name “Holy Spirit”

B. v.5 – Herod “the Great” – 40 – 4 BC

1. 1st Chronicles 24:1-10 - The “courses” of Abijah

- a. At the time of Zechariah there were 17,000 priests in Jerusalem
- b. 24 divisions served twice a year - “all hands on” for 3 biggest festivals
- c. Maybe, just maybe, you were selected by lot to offer the incense - Once in a lifetime opportunity

2. “daughter of Aaron” shows Elizabeth was a Levite – means Mary’s mother was most likely a Levite and her father Eli a Judahite

C. v.6 – both Zechariah and Elizabeth were “righteous” Jews

D. v.7 – Why note barren and old?

- 1. JTB’s birth was a miracle x 2

2. Recalling OT barren women who had sons that did great things (Samuel, Samson, etc.)

- Samuel and Samson were Nazarites - *nazir* in Hebrew means “set apart” - No strong drink, Can’t cut hair, Can’t touch dead folks

E. vv.8-12

F. v. 13 – What was Zechariah’s prayer?

1. An “old and barren” couple wanting a child?
2. Praying for the coming Messiah?
3. Deliverance from the Romans?
4. It’s likely “both/and” not “either/or”

- John means “YHWH has been gracious” – full of grace for the coming Savior

G. OT Angelic Birth Announcements

1. Patterns:

- Appearance of an angel
- Fear from the person who saw him
- Reassurance from the angel
- A divine message
- Objection and verification from the “hearer”
- A sign of assurance

2. Objections from the “hearer”

- a. Hagar: Have I really seen the one who sees me?
- b. Abraham and Sarah laughed
- c. Manoah and Mrs. Manoah (Samson’s mama) asked YHWH to resend the angel
- d. Mary: “How can this be since I’m a virgin”?

H. vv.14-17

1. v.14 – joy and gladness/delight won’t only be for his parents but the nation of Israel

2. vv.15-17 - Was JTB a Nazarite? No mention of not cutting hair - Samson/Samuel’s barren mamas got an angel visit

3. What’s the reason for the joy/delight?

- a. Filled with the Holy Spirit
- b. People returning to the LORD
- c. Families healed (fathers to children)
- d. Turn to righteousness and wisdom
- e. Prepare a way for the Lord to do His will

4. v.17 – “in spirit and power of Elijah”

a. Luke often links power and the Holy Spirit

b. v.35 – “the power of the Most High will overshadow you”

c. 4:14 - *And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee*

d. Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

III. Are we to be John the Baptists? My Take Away

When I am filled with the Holy Spirit my life may show people how to return to the LORD, or help families to be healed, or help others turn to righteousness and wisdom, or prepare a way for the Lord to do His will.

- John 1:7: *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.*

Thoughts? Comments? Questions?

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