

Luke 1:1-23

Supernaturally Ours

(We are going to depart from our study of Acts for a few weeks while we get ready for the coming of Jesus.)

Luke is writing this account for Theophilus, who may have been a high-ranking government official. His name means “lover of God.” In these first verses of Luke, we are told of the coming of John the Baptist, which is quite an amazing story.

In the time of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife, Elizabeth, was also a descendant of Aaron. Both were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. They were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”



Photo: Road: Our necessary journey into the supernatural.

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens,

because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

Every Day with God

Luke is the only Gospel that provides the story of John the Baptist. The Book of Isaiah (40:3) tells us that someone from the wilderness will come and prepare the way of the Lord. We know that person is John the Baptist. How frightened Zechariah must have been to find the angel Gabriel standing by the altar. How strange it must have been to hear him say that his barren wife, Elizabeth, was to have a child at her elderly age and even stranger to learn that he (Zechariah) would not be able to speak until the child was born.

The entire story of the birth of Christ is in many ways a supernatural story. We have an angel appearing out of nowhere. We have Zechariah unable to speak. And we have Elizabeth giving birth to a child when she was unable to conceive. Of course, if the story of Jesus were not out of this world and just an ordinary story, he wouldn't be Jesus, the Almighty, the Everlasting, and the Prince of Peace.

Prayer: Thank you for giving us the wonderful story of Zechariah and Elizabeth and Gabriel.