

ANGELS ON THE INCARNATION

Luke 1:5-25 (p. 1587)

December 1, 2019

*But the angel said to [Zechariah]:
"Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name 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."*

Luke 1:13-15

Theophilus and the gospel

*Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us
so that you may know the certainty of the things that you have been taught.*

Luke 1:1-4

Gospels are faith formation tools, not precise biographies or First Century hagiographies

Herod or Zechariah?

*In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah . . .
his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.*

Luke 1:5

Don't watch the palaces or the fortresses

Shattering the silence

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty an angel of the Lord appeared to him

Luke 1:8-11

- 1) Zechariah was DOING HIS DUTY VERY WELL
- 2) Zechariah was praying for MESSIAH
- 2) Silence means GOD IS AT WORK

John and Elijah

*“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah,
to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous –
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
Luke 1:17 (see Malachi 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3-5)*

- 1) Gabriel hints at the NEW COVENANT
- 2) Gabriel EXTENDS God’s covenant PROMISES TO “ALL MANKIND”
- 3) We are STILL WAITING for Elijah

Zechariah’s non-faith

*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 answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God,
and 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 proper time.
Luke 1:18-21*

- 1) Zechariah SHOULD HAVE believed
- 2) The “good news” is GATDOTL IS FINALLY HERE
- 3) Silence PREPARES ZECHARIAH FOR GOD’S WORK

Elizabeth’s favor

*After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.
“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown me his favor
and taken away my disgrace among the people.”
Luke 1:24-25*

- 1) Luke emphasizes THE VOICES OF THE WOMEN
- 2) Look where GOD IS LOOKING

Advent devotions

These are some of Pastor Fakkema's go-to Advent season devotions and worship resources. Celebrate Advent!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "God is in the Manger" devotional is available at Amazon – or from Pastor Fakkema!

Scott Hozee's "Expecting" devotions for Advent. This is a free Faith Alive resource at <http://library.crcna.org/resource/expecting>

John Piper's "Good News of Great Joy" advent devotions at <https://www.desiringgod.org/great-joy>

John Piper's "The Dawning of Indestructible Joy" at <https://document.desiringgod.org/the-dawning-of-indestructible-joy-en.pdf?ts=1446648252>

Bethlehem Bible College's Advent devotions are available at <https://bethbc.edu/10549-2/>

Advent resources from Faith Alive at <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits/family-faith-formation-toolkit/advent>

Advent devotions and sermons from Calvin Seminary at <https://cep.calvinseminary.edu/advent-2019/>

"Seeking God's Face" is a downloadable book of daily prayers with a wonderful Advent section available from Faith Alive at http://www.faithaliveresources.org/Promotions/SGF_Advent_Sampler.pdf

Regent College's "The Cradle and the Crown" is available at Amazon.

Reframe Media (the online presence of the Back to God Hour) produces "Today" at <https://today.reframemedia.com/>

Cru's Advent devotions at <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/life-and-relationships/holidays/advent/daily-devotional/day-1.html>

CRC's worship institute Advent resources for public and private worship at <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/advent-resource-guide/>