

Luke 1:1-25 Zechariah and the Angel Gabriel

In the introduction to the Gospel of Luke, the groundwork was laid to show how Luke, a non-Hebrew, was well qualified to write a Gospel narrative about our Savior although Luke was not a disciple of Yeshua.

The Gospel of Luke is an orderly account of events that occurred and if Luke had not provided those accounts and events, the Saints of the Most High would not have the record of what happened.

Luke's writing contains events and accounts that no other Gospel records and covers the beginning of what would be considered the New Testament writings to the end of the Acts of the early Assemblies.

Immediately after Luke gives his reasoning for writing his Gospel account, he provides fascinating insight to a private encounter and conversation that occurred in the Temple Holy Place between the Priest Zechariah and the angel Gabriel.

Lk 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Lk 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Lk 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

Luke informs us:

- Zacharias and Elizabeth were direct descendants of Aaron, the Priest and brother of Moses.
- Zacharias was a Priest of the course of Abia.
- Zacharias and Elizabeth were both righteous before YeHoVaH.
- Zacharias and Elizabeth were both walking in the Commandments and Ordinances of YeHoVaH and were blameless.
- Zacharias and Elizabeth did not have any children.
- Elizabeth was barren.
- They were both advanced in days or age.

Lk 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Lk 1:5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

Lk 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Lk 1:7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

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- They were both advanced in days/years or age.

Lk 1:8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

Course – 2183 ἐφημερία ephemeria {ef-ay-mer-ee'-ah}

Meaning: 1) a service limited to a stated series of days 2) the class or course itself of priests who for a week at a time performed the duties of the priestly office. David divided the priests into twenty four classes, each of which in its turn discharged the duties of the office for an entire week, from sabbath to sabbath

Usage: AV - course 2; 2

There were 24 courses as established by David.

A course was a 7-day period, twice a year.

Zacharias' lot was to burn incense for the week.

Lk 1:9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Lk 1:10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

The time of incense was twice a day at sunrise and sunset.

Ex 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

Ex 30:8 And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations

One day while Zacharias was doing his work in the temple, he was visited by the angel Gabriel.

Lk 1:11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luke tell us the exact location the angel Gabriel was standing in when he appeared to Zacharias.

Lk 1:12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Lk 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Although Elizabeth was barren, and both Zacharias and Elizabeth were advanced in age, Zacharias still prayed as an aged man for a son. The angel Gabriel told Zacharias:

- He would have joy and gladness.
- Many would rejoice at the birth of his son.
- His son would be great in the sight of YeHoVaH.
- His son would be subject to aspects of the vow of a Nazarite.
- His son would be filled with the Holy Ghost in his mothers' womb.

- His son would turn many hearts of the Children of Israel back to their Father YeHoVaH.
- His son's ministry would be in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- His son would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.
- His son would turn the disobedient to wisdom.
- His son would make ready a people prepared for Yeshua.

Lk 1:14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

Lk 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Nu 6:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Nu 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:

Nu 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

Nu 6:4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

Lk 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

Lk 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, 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.

Luke wrote to us and informed us he was aware of the writings and prophecy of Malachi who prophesied:

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And 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.

Luke wrote to us and informed us he was aware of the writings and prophecy of Isaiah who prophesied:

Isa 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Isa 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Zacharias was not only stricken with fear, but he did not believe what the angel Gabriel told him.

Lk 1:18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

Zacharias wanted a sign or proof because he was an old man, and his wife was old also.

Based on Gabriel's response, he was insulted at Zacharias reply and exclaimed who he was and since you did not believe me, I will make you dumb until you see with your own eyes the thing I have spoken come to pass.

Lk 1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.

Lk 1:20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Dumb – 4623 σιωπάω siopao {see-o-pah'-o}

Meaning: 1) to be silent, hold one's peace 1a) used of one's silence because dumb 2) metaph. of a calm, quiet sea

Usage: AV - hold (one's) peace 9, peace 1, dumb 1; 11

It is amazing how we can pray for years and years for something and not believe what we are praying for will come to pass.

Although Luke mentioned many powerful attributes of Zacharias:

- Zacharias was a Priest of the course of Abia.
- Zacharias was righteous before YeHoVaH.
- Zacharias walked in the Commandments and Ordinances of YeHoVaH and was blameless.
- Zacharias did not believe the angel Gabriel who told him YeHoVaH had heard his prayers for a son and the name he was to be called.

Zacharias wanted a sign or proof:

The sign – nine months of dumbness, unable to speak from that moment until the day that these things shall be performed.

Lk 1:57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

Lk 1:58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shown great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

Lk 1:59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

Lk 1:60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

Lk 1:61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

Lk 1:62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

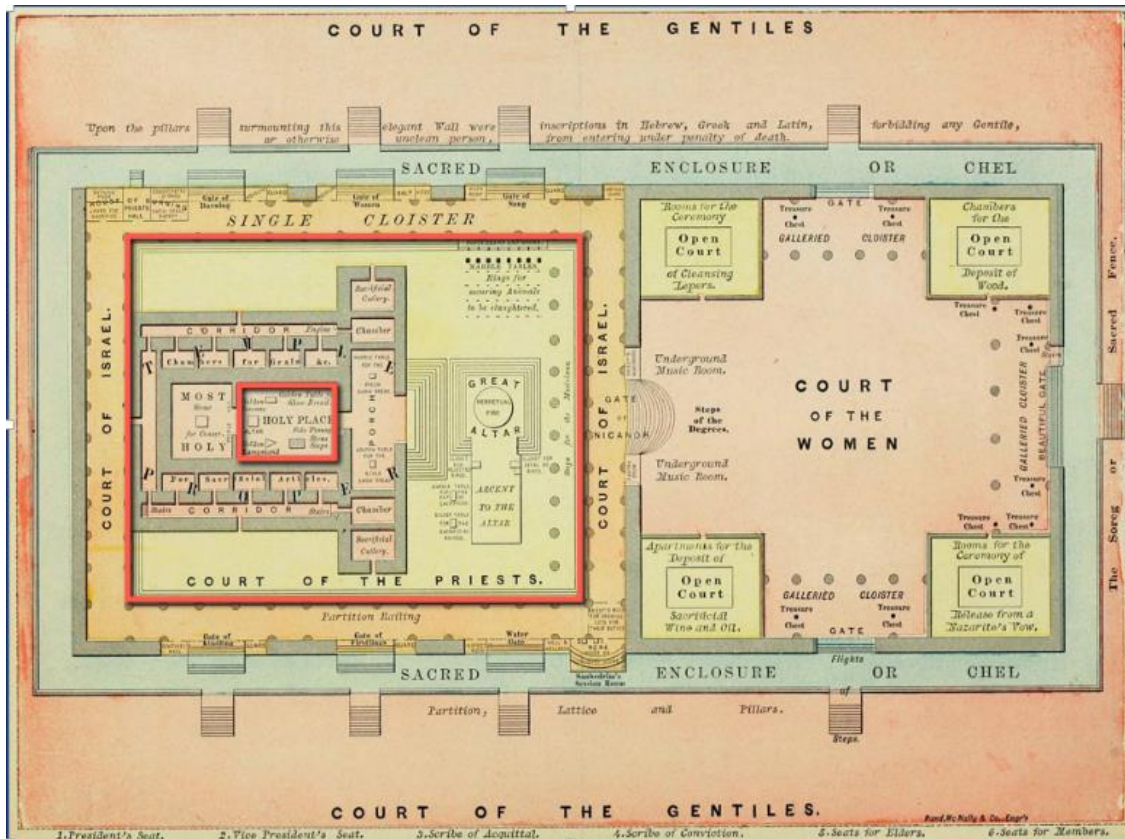
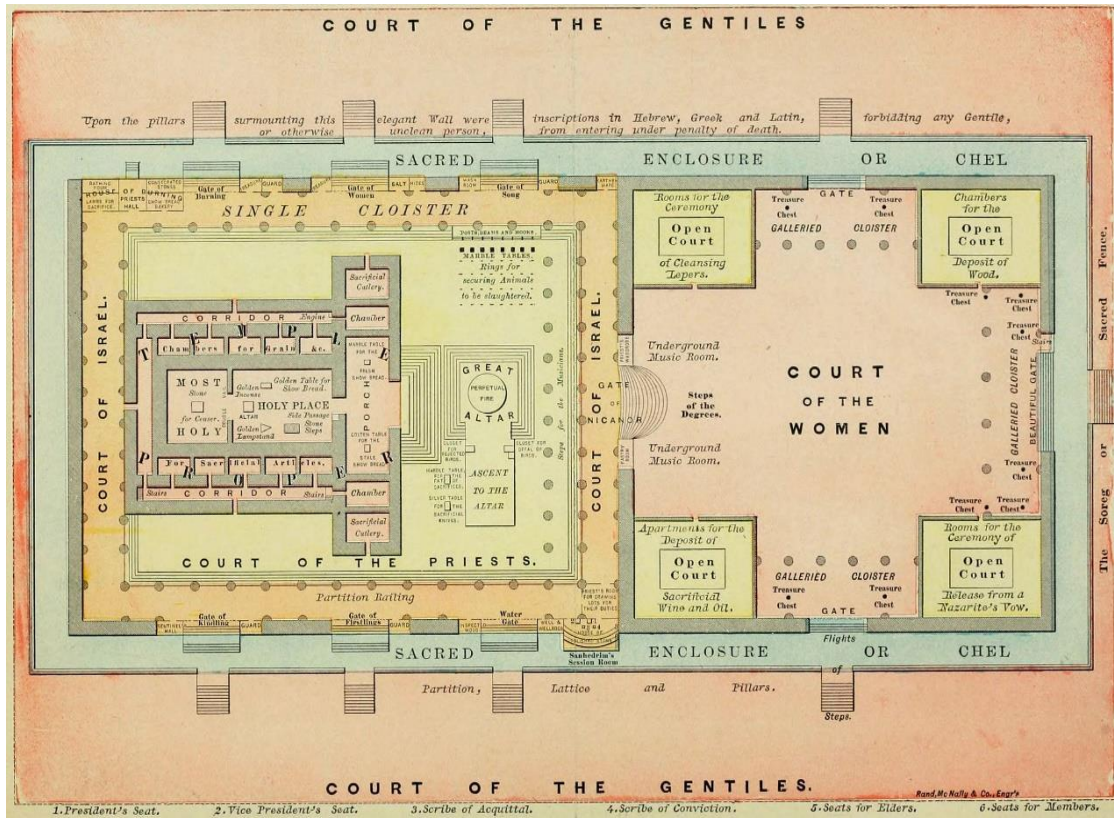
Lk 1:63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

Lk 1:64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

Lk 1:65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

Lk 1:21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

The people, mentioned in this verse, most likely refer to the other Priests who served with Zacharias and knew the amount of time it took for him to put the incense in place for they would have been the first people he saw when he exited the Holy Place.



Lk 1:22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

Lk 1:23 And it came to pass, that as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

Zacharias ministration was a period of 7 days from Sabbath to Sabbath.

Lk 1:24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Elizabath secluded herself and remained in seclusion for five months.

Lk 1:25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Elizabath barrenness deprived her of personal happiness and was considered to be disfavor from YeHoVaH and a matter of social reproach.

Elizabath's barrenness was viewed as shameful or as a reproach to her among the community.

Several godly women experienced barrenness for a long period of their lives but were shown divine favor in the latter part of their lives.

Sarah
Rebekah
Rachael
Hannah

This is one reason we must endure to the end in faith, because we never know when YeHoVaH will decide to visit us. We cannot allow ourselves to grow weary in well doing as written in Galatians 6.

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.