

The Arrival – Week 1

Discuss –

- 1) Has there been a time when God answered a prayer you had stopped praying?**
- 2) What practical steps can this passage in Luke help us take during our own seasons of barrenness? How can it help us identify what to do and what not to do?**
- 3) How can the story of Zacharias help us put our hope in Jesus, rather than in our circumstances?**
- 4) How can the verses below help us spread the hope of Jesus this Christmas season?**

Close in prayer. Pray for Operation Christmas Child and for the Birthday Gift to Jesus.

Scripture From The Sermon

Prov. 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But desire [i]fulfilled is a tree of life.

Is. 9:1&2

But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times
He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on
He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan,
Galilee of the [b]Gentiles.

² [c]The people who walk in darkness
Will see a great light;
Those who live in a dark land,
The light will shine on them.

Luke 1:5-17

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named [g]Zacharias, of
the division of [h]Abijah; and he had a wife [i]from the daughters of Aaron, and her
name was Elizabeth. ⁶ They were both righteous in the sight of God,
walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. ⁷ But
they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced
in [i]years.

⁸ Now it happened *that* while he was performing his priestly service before God in
the *appointed* order of his division, ⁹ according to the custom of the priestly office,
he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the
whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense
offering. ¹¹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the
altar of incense. ¹² Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*,
and fear [k]gripped him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias,
for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
and you will [l]give him the name John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and
many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he
will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit [m]while yet
in his mother’s womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the
Lord their God. It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and
power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the
disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared
for the Lord.”

Zacharias said to the angel, “How will I know this *for certain*? For I am an old
man and my wife is advanced in [n]years.” ¹⁹ The angel answered and said to him,
“I am Gabriel, who [o]stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak

to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”

The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept ^[p]making signs to them, and remained mute. ²³ When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.

²⁴ After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she ^[a]kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, ²⁵ “This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked *with favor* upon *me*, to take away my disgrace among men.”

Matt 1:21

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for ^[w]He will save His people from their sins.”

Phil. 2:9-11

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under ^[e]the Law, ⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under ^[f]the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.