

**BURDEN-LIFTING**

**DAY**

**LUKE 1:5-17**

## **Luke 1:5-17**

**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.**

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

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

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

**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.**

## **Luke 1:5-17 - continued**

**10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.**

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

**12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.**

**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.**

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

## **Luke 1:5-17 - continued**

**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.**

**16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.**

**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.**

# Introduction

**A. God's prophetic plan is always on schedule**

**Galatians 4:4**

**But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,**

**Habakkuk 2:3**

**For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.**

# Introduction

**B. Preparation for the birth of Christ begins by an unexpected announcement of another birth, John**

**C. God works through the unlikely, but faithful  
Isaiah 64:4 (1 Corinthians 2:9)**

**For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.**

# **I. The Burden In Their Lives (1:7)**

**A. They had no child**

**Psalm 127:3**

**Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.**

**B. Others knew this was their problem**

**C. This problem did not stop their faithfulness (v 6)**

**Proverbs 24:10**

**If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.**

## **II. The Burden-Lifting Day Arrived (1:8-11)**

### **A. Some things to notice about that day**

- 1. It was just an ordinary day**
- 2. They carried out their ordinary duties**
- 3. It was a day of prayer**

### **B. God can change an ordinary day to an extraordinary burden-lifting day**

- 1. Blind Bartimaeus outside Jericho**
- 2. Crooked Zacchaeus up a tree**
- 3. The Samaritan woman at the well**
- 4. The woman with the issue of blood**



# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

**A. They had hoped for a baby**

**Psalm 37:4-5**

**4 Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**

**5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.**

**B. God gave them a child still remembered**

**Romans 5:5a**

**And hope maketh not ashamed;**

# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

## **C. The forerunner of Christ**

**Matthew 11:10**

**For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.**

# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

## **D. The angel's announcement (vv 19-25)**

### **1. God answers your prayers (vv 13, 19)**

**Luke 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 shew thee these glad tidings.**

### **2. Puts to silence unbelief (v 20)**

**Luke 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.**

# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

**D. The angel's announcement (vv 19-25) - continued**

**3. Takes away reproach (vv 24-25)**

**Luke 1:24-25**

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

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

# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

## **E. The birth of John (vv 58-66)**

### **1. Brings joy (v 58)**

**Luke 1:58**

**And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.**

### **2. Fulfills God's will (v 63)**

**Luke 1:63**

**And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.**

# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

**E. The birth of John (vv 58-66) - continued**

**3. Glorifies God (vv 64-66)**

**Luke 1:64-66**

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

**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.**

**66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.**

# **III. The Blessings Were Far Greater Than They Had Expected**

## **F. The prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:76-80)**

**Luke 1:76-80**

**76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;**

**77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,**

**78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,**

**79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.**

# **Let This Be Your Burden-Lifting Day**

**Matthew 11:28**

**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are  
heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**