

When God Moves

8-19-18

Luke 1:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

Like many during his time, Luke knew that Jesus' lineage was from a strict religious system founded on the OT and centered in Israel and the city of Jerusalem. Having personally had the life changing experience of trusting Christ, Luke wanted to understand Jesus' life and ministry.

Chronologically Luke sees that the first major person in this NT ministry is John the Baptist. John is the one who actually introduces Jesus and HIS earthly ministry. However, here is the KEY to understanding John the Baptist: HE is an OT prophet not a NT prophet. Therefore, John speaks and acts like an OT prophet!

John 1:17 (ESV)

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

This verse clarifies John's ministry. John was an OT prophet like Moses and he presents us Jesus as the fulfillment of OT prophecies. Then it is Jesus who reveals the fullness of God's grace. Let us look at John the OT prophet.

John's father is an OT priest operating in the OT religious system. John's mother was also of the OT priestly heritage. They were very old and didn't have any children.

Luke 1:5 (ESV)

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a **priest** named Zechariah. And he had a wife from **the daughters of Aaron**, and her name was Elizabeth.

Zechariah faithfully carried out his duties in the Temple of God year after year. Then one day while performing his duties in the Temple, Gabriel the angel appears to him and tells him he will have a son. Gabriel tells Zechariah that he is to name the baby John and that **the baby will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. He will be great in the spirit and power of Elijah to make ready and prepare a people for the Lord. All this was prophesied in Mal.3&4. Zechariah doesn't believe Gabriel even though God has done similar things in the past with Abraham and Sarah, Samuel's mother, Sampson's mother. Therefore Gabriel is disturbed by Zechariah's lack of faith and tells him that he will not be able to speak until the baby is born. Needless to say Elizabeth becomes pregnant with John. Then six months after Gabriel's visit to Zechariah, the angel visits Mary to proclaim that she will give birth to Jesus. At this time Gabriel also tells her that Elisabeth her relative is pregnant. John and Jesus are related!**

Luke 1:36 (ESV)

And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and **this is the sixth month** with her who was called barren.

Look at this fascinating encounter of Elizabeth pregnant with John and Mary pregnant with Jesus.

Luke 1:41–45 (ESV)

⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Application: God still moves today. God is not impulsive or without purpose. We can gain personal insight from this miraculous account about how God will move in our life.

#1 God’s Promises will be fulfilled – In Mal.3&4, 400 years before it happened, God promised the coming of John. All God’s promises to you will be fulfilled; you and God are a majority; never give up!

#2 When God moves all heaven moves. There are Angels all around to fight Spiritual battles and give protection. Gabriel was active in the book of Daniel and then 500 years later he is pronouncing John and Jesus’ birth. Be confident! Angels all around!

#3 By trusting Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit. Luke says more about the Holy Spirit than any other author in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is transforming, directing, and empowering every single believer. We need to learn how to listen to the Holy Spirit and be sensitive to HIS promptings. Look at Luke's first recordings of the Holy Spirit.

✓ Luke 1:15 (ESV)

(The baby) will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

✓ Luke 1:41 (ESV)

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,

✓ Luke 1:44 (ESV)

For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Later in the book of Acts Luke will described the Holy Spirit falling on all believers. No doubt he has that event in his mind as he describes this meeting with Elizabeth and Mary. God is invading this world with HIS presence by Jesus through the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit using even an old lady and a teenage girl to change the world!

Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

#4 God's Word does not come to the great but to HIS chosen, HIS faithful, who serve God wholeheartedly.

Luke 3:1–2 (ESV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea,² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, **the word of God came to John** the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

When God moved, HE did not speak to the great Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar. HE did not speak to the High Priest of Israel. When God moved, HE spoke to John. Jesus said that there was no one born of women greater than John, **but the least in the kingdom is greater than John.** That means you!

Luke 7:28 (ESV)

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John (the OT prophet!). **Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.**

God will speak to you. You are greater than John and the OT prophets. God is moving today and HE is looking for a man or woman who will listen to HIM!

Isaiah 50:2 (ESV)

Why, when I came, was there no man;
why, when I called, was there no one to answer?
Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem?

Israel waited 400 years for the promise of John the Baptist to be fulfilled, but believers today in the Age of the Holy Spirit have better promises. This was even predicted in the OT.

Isaiah 65:24 (ESV)

Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

We rejoice because we are forgiven and qualified for better promises!

2Cor.5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin, so that we might be the righteousness of God.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.