

Celebrating HIS First Coming

Remembering what the Prophets said... Pt. 3

Luke 1:37 KJV

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 1:37 AMPC

37 For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.

This is telling Mary that all “things” are possible with God. No “thing” or nothing is impossible to Him. Elisabeth is expecting and Mary is expecting Jesus. These two will play a great role in Christianity. John is the voice proclaiming the coming of Jesus Christ. His ministry paves the way for Jesus' ministry.

Luke 1:38 KJV

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38 AMPC

38 Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her.

“Be it unto me according to thy word”: Mary was in an extremely embarrassing and difficult position.

Although engaged to Joseph, she faced the stigma of an unwed motherhood. Joseph would obviously have known that the child was not his. She knew she would be accused of adultery, an offense punishable by stoning (Deut. 22:13-21; John 8:3-5).

Yet she willingly and graciously submitted to the will of God. She calls herself "handmaid of the Lord" or servant. His will is her desire.

Luke 1:39-40 KJV

39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

Luke 1:39-40 AMPC

39 And at that time Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country to a town of Judah,

40 And she went to the house of Zachariah and, entering it, saluted Elizabeth.

Here we see Mary, the cousin of Elisabeth going to share the news of expecting the Christ child. Mary knows Elisabeth believes in God and will believe that Mary is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She also wants to hear about the miracle of Elisabeth's pregnancy.

Luke 1:41 KJV

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Luke 1:41 AMPC

41 And it occurred that when Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elisabeth was filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

“Filled with the Holy Ghost”: This is the Spirit of the Holy Ghost that came upon Elisabeth the minute Mary greeted her. The gift of prophecy came upon her and she began to prophesy of the coming events. Her first statement was a message from God to Mary approving of the birth of the Christ child which is to be soon.

Luke 1:42 KJV

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Luke 1:42 AMPC

42 And she cried out with a loud cry, and then exclaimed, Blessed (favored of God) above all other women are you! And blessed (favored of God) is the Fruit of your womb!

Elisabeth filled with the Holy Spirit recognizes and rightly prophesies the Christ child which Mary is carrying in her womb.

Luke 1:43 KJV

43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Luke 1:43 AMPC

43 And how [have I deserved that this honor should] be granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

“The mother of my Lord”: This expression is not in praise of Mary, but in praise of the Child whom she bore. It was a profound expression of Elizabeth’s confidence that Mary’s Child would be the long hoped for Messiah, the one whom even David called “Lord” (20:44).

Elizabeth’s grasp of the situation was extraordinary, considering she greeted Mary not with skepticism but with joy. She understood the response of the child in her own womb and she seemed to comprehend the immense importance of the Child whom Mary was carrying. All of this must be attributed to the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit (verse 41). Here we see in prophecy, Elisabeth recognizes Jesus as her Lord even before His birth.

Luke 1:44 KJV

44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

Luke 1:44 AMPC

44 For behold, the instant the sound of your salutation reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

“The babe leaped in my womb for joy”: The infant, like his mother, was Spirit-filled (verses 15, 41). His response, like that of Elizabeth, was supernaturally prompted by the Spirit of God. We see here that even before his birth. John the Baptist recognized Jesus.

Luke 1:45 KJV

45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Luke 1:45 AMPC

45 And blessed (happy, to be envied) is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were spoken to her from the Lord.

John 20:29 AMPC

29 Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, Thomas, do you now believe (trust, have faith)? **Blessed and happy and to be envied are those who have never seen Me and yet have believed and adhered to and trusted and relied on Me.**

This is the end of Elisabeth's prophecy. She is proclaiming how wonderful it is that Mary believed. From verse 46 through 55 is a hymn of praise by Mary. This is an unselfish and humble prayer of praise.

Luke 1:46 KJV

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

Luke 1:46 AMPC

46 And Mary said, My soul magnifies and extols the Lord,

Mary is glorifying the Son of God who is her Savior, as well as ours. Even though she is His earthly mother, He is her Savior.

Luke 1:47 KJV

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Luke 1:47 AMPC

47 And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

“My Savior”: Mary referred to God as “Savior,” indicating both that she recognized her own need of a Savior, and that she knew the true God as her Savior. Nothing here or anywhere else in Scripture indicates Mary thought of herself as “immaculate” (free from the taint of original sin).

Quite the opposite is true; she employed language typical of someone whose only hope for salvation is divine grace. There is nothing in this passage that lends any support to the notion that Mary herself ought to be an object of adoration.

Luke 1:48 KJV

48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Luke 1:48 AMPC

48 For He has looked upon the low station and humiliation of His handmaiden. For behold, from now on all generations [of all ages] will call me blessed and declare me happy and to be envied!

“Low estate”: Mary clearly shows through this passage a deep sense of humility. Mary can hardly believe that a young girl of so little worldly importance can be blessed of God so much that she will be remembered for generations to come. She calls herself God's servant (“handmaid”).

Luke 1:49-50 KJV

49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Luke 1:49-50 AMPC

49 For He Who is almighty has done great things for me—and holy is His name [to be venerated in His purity, majesty and glory]!

50 And His mercy (His compassion and kindness toward the miserable and afflicted) is on those who fear Him with godly reverence, from generation to generation and age to age.

She jumps here from the blessings He has showered on her to the mercy He will show all them who fear Him. His power (might), is mentioned, then His holiness, and then His mercy. We see too, that all of these are never ending.

Luke 1:51 KJV

51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

Luke 1:51 AMPC

51 He has shown strength and made might with His arm; He has scattered the proud and haughty in and by the imagination and purpose and designs of their hearts.

We see here, the mighty arm of God in His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is an extension of the Father. Jesus, in many instances, is spoken of as the Right Hand of God. This is a kind of prophecy of Mary here, speaking of what Jesus will do.

Luke 1:52-53 KJV

52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Luke 1:52-53 AMPC

52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of low degree.

53 He has filled and satisfied the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty-handed [without a gift].

This is very similar to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus comes to help those who cannot help themselves. He would say He came for the ones who needed a physician. Those who trust in uncertain riches of this world will be turned away by Jesus and the key word is trust.

Luke 1:54-55 KJV

54 He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

Luke 1:54-55 AMPC

54 He has laid hold on His servant Israel [to help him, to espouse his cause], in remembrance of His mercy,

55 Even as He promised to our forefathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Let's look and see who Abraham's seed of promise are...

Galatians 3:1 AMPC

1 O you poor and silly and thoughtless and unreflecting and senseless Galatians! Who has fascinated or bewitched or cast a spell over you, unto whom—right before your very eyes—Jesus Christ (the Messiah) was openly and graphically set forth and portrayed as crucified?

Galatians 3:22-29 AMPC

22 But the Scriptures [picture all mankind as sinners] shut up and imprisoned by sin, so that [the inheritance, blessing] which was promised through faith in Jesus Christ (the Messiah) might be given (released, delivered, and committed) to [all] those who believe [who adhere to and trust in and rely on Him].

23 Now before the faith came, we were perpetually guarded under the Law, kept in custody in preparation for the faith that was destined to be revealed (unveiled, disclosed),

24 So that the Law served [to us Jews] as our trainer [our guardian, our guide to Christ, to lead us] until Christ [came], that we might be justified (declared righteous, put in right standing with God) by and through faith.

25 But now that the faith has come, we are no longer under a trainer (the guardian of our childhood).

26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith.

27 For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ.

28 There is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you belong to Christ [are in Him Who is Abraham's Seed], then you are Abraham's offspring and [spiritual] heirs according to promise.

Note: _____

Luke 1:56 KJV

56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Luke 1:56 AMPC

56 And Mary remained with her [Elizabeth] for about three months and [then] returned to her [own] home.

“About three months”: Mary arrived in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy (verse 26), so she evidently stayed until John the Baptist was born. **“Her own house”:** At this point Mary was still engaged to Joseph, not yet living in his house (Matt. 1:24). Both were to have miracle births. Both were expecting promised sons. The only difference was that Elisabeth's baby had an earthly father and Mary's baby had a heavenly Father.

Luke 1:57-58 KJV

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

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

Luke 1:57-58 AMPC

57 Now the time that Elizabeth should be delivered came, and she gave birth to a son.

58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy on her, and they rejoiced with her.

A woman far beyond her child bearing years brought forth a son., and many and perhaps none would of believed when she had told them. Now they rejoiced with her. These very same people that were so close to her knew how Zachariah had a vision in the temple and was left unable to speak. All sorts of things were probably going through their minds.

Luke 1:59 KJV

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.

Luke 1:59 AMPC

59 And it occurred that on the eighth day, when they came to circumcise the child, they were intending to call him Zachariah after his father,

“On the eighth day”: In accord with God’s commandment (Gen. 17:12; Lev. 12:1-3; Phil. 3:5), it had become customary to name a child at circumcision. The ritual brought together family and friends, who in this case, pressured the parents to name the baby “after his father”, probably intending this as a gesture of respect to Zachariah. On the eighth day the circumcision was done to seal the Abrahamic covenant with God. Even today many parents name their first son after its father. This was about to occur here until Elisabeth and Zachariah stopped them.

Luke 1:60 KJV

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

Luke 1:60 AMPC

60 But his mother answered, Not so! But he shall be called John.

“Not so”: Elisabeth had learned from Zachariah in writing (verse 63), everything Gabriel had said to him. The father had gotten word to Elisabeth what his name was to be even though he had lost his voice temporarily. Elisabeth speaks up and says his name is John. Now there is a stir. Why is this baby to be named John?

Luke 1:61 KJV

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

Luke 1:61 AMPC

61 And they said to her, None of your relatives is called by that name.

“John”: means the grace of Jehovah, God has been gracious. Here is a name none of their relatives have used.

Luke 1:62 KJV

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

Luke 1:62 AMPC

62 And they inquired with signs to his father [as to] what he wanted to have him called.

“Made signs to his father”: The priests conducting the circumcision ceremony appear to have assumed that since he could not speak he was also deaf.

Luke 1:63 KJV

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

Luke 1:63 AMPC

63 Then Zachariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, His name is John. And they were all astonished.

What is going on here? They are really questioning now. The father agrees that his name is John. He can't speak so he writes this name, His doubt is gone.

Luke 1:64 KJV

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

Luke 1:64 AMPC

64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak, blessing and praising and thanking God.

The instant he put his doubt behind him, Zachariah's tongue was loosed and he spoke. What wonderful things he had to tell them about what happened in the temple and about this miracle birth.

Luke 1:65 KJV

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.

Luke 1:65 AMPC

65 And awe and reverential fear came on all their neighbors; and all these things were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea.

“Fear”: The normal response, and an appropriate one (12:5), when someone is confronted by a divine visitation or a mighty work of God (Judges 6:22; 13:22; Mark 16:5). Luke seems specially to take note of this; he often reports fear in the presence of God and His works (30, 65; 2:9-10; 5:10, 26; 7:16; 8:25, 37, 50; 9:34, 45; 23:40).

“Throughout all the hill country of Judea”: Jerusalem and the surrounding area. John the Baptist’s reputation began to spread from the time of his birth (verse 66). These neighbors and cousins will all know that there has been something supernatural about this birth. Word spread fast that something miraculous has happened here.

Luke 1:66 KJV

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.

Luke 1:66 AMPC

66 And all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, Whatever will this little boy be then? For the hand of the Lord was [so evidently] with him [protecting and aiding him].

The Lord is with John and the people know that John is anointed of God from birth that he will do some great job.

Luke 1:67 KJV

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Luke 1:67 AMPC

67 Now Zachariah his father was filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

“Filled with the Holy Ghost”: The minute Zachariah is filled with the Holy Spirit he publicly prophesies by bringing forth that what is happening was already spoken of by the Prophets.

John 16:8, 13 AMPC

8 And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment:

13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

Acts 1:8 AMPC

8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

Acts 2:22-24 AMPC

*22 You men of Israel, listen to what I have to say: **Jesus of Nazareth**, a Man accredited and pointed out and shown forth and commended and attested to you by God by the mighty works and [the power of performing] wonders and signs which God worked through Him [right] in your midst, as you yourselves know—*

23 This Jesus, when delivered up according to the definite and fixed purpose and settled plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and put out of the way [killing Him] by the hands of lawless and wicked men.

24 [But] God raised Him up, liberating Him from the pangs of death, seeing that it was not possible for Him to continue to be controlled or retained by it.

Acts 22:7-8 KJV

7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

*8 And I answered, **Who art thou, Lord?** And he said unto me, **I am Jesus of Nazareth,** whom thou persecutest.*

Witness defined:

Testimony; attestation of a fact or event. A person who knows or sees any thing; one personally present; as, he was witness; he was an eye-witness. One who sees the execution of an instrument, and subscribes it for the purpose of confirming its authenticity be his testimony.

1828 Webster's Dictionary

Luke 1:68 KJV

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

Luke 1:68 AMPC

68 Blessed (praised and extolled and thanked) be the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and brought deliverance and redemption to His people!

We see here, that his very first statement blesses God and prophesies redemption of his people. Every word of this prophecy will come about because these words coming from Zachariah's mouth are not his words, but the word of the Lord through him.”

Luke 1:69 KJV

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

Luke 1:69 AMPC

69 And He has raised up a Horn of salvation [a mighty and valiant Helper, the Author of salvation] for us in the house of David His servant

"Horn" signifies strength. We realize that our strength is in our salvation and in the direct lineage of David, the Lord Jesus will be born.

Luke 1:70 KJV

70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

Luke 1:70 AMPC

70 This is as He promised by the mouth of His holy prophets from the most ancient times [in the memory of man]—

In (Gen. 3:15), we see the first prophecy of this Savior.

Genesis 3:15 AMPC

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.

Luke 1:71 KJV

71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

Luke 1:71 AMPC

71 That we should have deliverance and be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who detest and pursue us with hatred;

God remembers His covenant that He has made with man and Jesus Christ the God of all mercy will save us even from our own selves.

Luke 1:72 KJV

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

Luke 1:72 AMPC

72 To make true and show the mercy and compassion and kindness [promised] to our forefathers and to remember and carry out His holy covenant [to bless, which is all the more sacred because it is made by God Himself],

“His holy covenant”: I.e., the Abrahamic Covenant (verse 73), with its promise of salvation by grace.

Luke 1:73 KJV

73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

Luke 1:73 AMPC

73 That covenant He sealed by oath to our forefather Abraham:

We know from an earlier teaching here, that all who believe in Jesus Christ are children of Abraham and heirs to the same promises God made to him.

Luke 1:74-75 KJV

74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Luke 1:74-75 AMPC

74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our foes, might serve Him fearlessly

75 In holiness (divine consecration) and righteousness [in accordance with the everlasting principles of right] within His presence all the days of our lives.

This prophecy is stating that we will be free from the bondage of this earth. We will be free from the guilt of sin and can go on in newness of life with Him. We can be holy and righteous, because we have taken on His righteousness and holiness. We will no longer be servant to sin, but have the righteousness of Christ to walk in all the days of our life.

Luke 1:76-77 KJV

*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,*

Luke 1:76-77 AMPC

*76 And you, little one, shall be called a prophet of the Most
High; for you shall go on before the face of the Lord to make
ready His ways,
77 To bring and give the knowledge of salvation to His people in
the forgiveness and remission of their sins.*

Zachariah is saying prophetically that John will proclaim the coming of Christ, John will go ahead and prepare the way. His message will be their need for repentance of their sins.

“The remission of their sins”: Forgiveness of sins is the heart of salvation. God saves sinners from separation from Him and from eternal hell only by atoning for and forgiving their sins.

Luke 1:78 KJV

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

Luke 1:78 AMPC

*78 Because of and through the heart of tender mercy and loving-
kindness of our God, a Light from on high will dawn upon
us and visit [us]*

“Dayspring”: A messianic reference (Isa. 9:2; 60:1-3; Mal 4:2; 2 Peter 1:19; Rev. 22:16). An awakening that comes from God on mankind that will receive it. God had mercy on mankind and then sent His Son to bring us out of the darkness into His marvelous Light.

Luke 1:79 KJV

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.

Luke 1:79 AMPC

79 To shine upon and give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct and guide our feet in a straight line into the way of peace.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Those who sit in darkness here are probably speaking of the Gentiles and even most of physical Israel as well. No hope of eternal life could they see as they did not know of God. They were in spiritual darkness until the Light of Jesus Christ shines in their heart and brings His glorious Light to them. Jesus is King of Peace. His is the only true peace.

Luke 1:80 KJV

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

Luke 1:80 AMPC

80 And the little boy grew and became strong in spirit; and he was in the deserts (wilderness) until the day of his appearing to Israel [the commencement of his public ministry].

“Was in the deserts”: He lived in the wilderness region East of Jerusalem and he John the Baptist (child), grew physically and spiritually.

You can tell from the statement about him being in the desert that he was not of this world. He was in the world for a purpose, but not of this world. His thoughts were not of this world. He was a separated man (separated by God to carry out a mission) and nothing else mattered to John. Everything was focused on his mission from God.



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