

Behind the Scenes at Bethlehem

Luke 1:1-23

December 9, 2007

Summary: Luke the physician carefully researched and documented from eyewitnesses themselves all the facts, so that we “might know the exact truth.” As we consider Zacharias the priest and father of John the Baptist, we will examine the progress of faith, the suffering of the righteous, and answered prayer.

1. A. Why was the Gospel of Luke written, and what key words best describe his approach as well as the sources from which he wrote?
Luke 1:1-4
- B. Luke himself gives the purpose for his book in verse 4, “*so that you might know the exact truth about what you have been taught.*” Why was such a careful and detailed work as this so important if this had already been taught?
Acts 17:2-4, Romans 10:17, II Timothy 1:12-14
- C. How well are you convinced regarding Jesus Christ? Do you know whom you have believed? What must you do in order to explain and give evidence that Jesus is the Christ to somebody else?
Ezra 7:10, John 14:21
2. A. What were the circumstances of Zacharias and Elizabeth and how is their character described?
Luke 1:5-7
- B. For a married couple in those days to not have a child was an embarrassment and a reproach. Since they were known to be righteous and blameless before God, why do you think they had to suffer this way for such a long time?
Job 23:10, Psalm 34:18-19, Proverbs 17:3, II Corinthians 4:16-17, 1 Peter 1:6-7
- C. Some Christians think if they live right for God, they will not have to suffer any hardships. We have seen that this is not the case; (see II Chronicles 31:20-32:1 for another quick example). How we respond to suffering reveals a lot about us. How well do you respond?
Proverbs 3:5-6, II Corinthians 5:15, II Timothy 1:8-9, 2:1-13
3. A. What happened to Zacharias? What did he do, what did he feel and what did he learn?
Luke 1:8-17

B. Look carefully again at verses 15-17. In what fashion did God answer their prayers, way over and above the many years of asking for a son?

C. How did Zacharias respond? Are you any better?
Luke 1:18-23