

December 19th

# Advent 2021



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*—D.A. Carson & Douglas Moo  
An Introduction to the New Testament*

## —THE BIBLICAL BIRTH NARRATIVES—

### “THE INCARNATION ACCORDING TO LUKE”

#### Introduction:

- The authors of the gospels compiled their accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus with a particular purpose in mind. Luke begins his gospel with the explanation that he intended to compile a written account of all that had been passed down concerning Jesus. Luke states that he is doing this in order that believers may have “certainty.”

**Key Point:** In his gospel, Luke emphasizes that God has come near to His people in the birth of Jesus so that they might be \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith and might therefore live with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Luke’s Birth Narrative

- Luke begins his gospel by providing important background information about the events that preceded the birth of the Lord Jesus (1:5-80)

##### *Zechariah & Elizabeth*

1. Important OT motifs and institutions stand in the \_\_\_\_\_ of their story.

Luke 1:5, 7—*“In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth... But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.”*

*Barrenness*

*The Priesthood*

*The Temple*

2. Zechariah and Elizabeth are an example of the faithful \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel who were awaiting the fulfillment of God’s promises to His people.

⇒ The angel referenced two important passages from the prophet Malachi where God promises that He will send a messenger who will “go before” the Lord (Mal. 3:1) and who will make ready a people whose hearts are prepared (Mal. 4:6).

3. Zechariah recognized that the birth of his son mean that God had surely \_\_\_\_\_ His people in order to redeem them.

Luke 1:68—*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...”*

**Key Point:** The account of Zechariah and Elizabeth displays how God shows His personal \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of the unfolding of His wider plans and purposes.

##### *Mary*

1. The account clearly identifies Mary’s son as the fulfillment of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ promises to Israel.

Luke 1:32-33—*“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ nature of her pregnancy emphasizes the sovereign power of God.

Luke 1:34-35—*“And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’”* <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God

3. The account draws an intentional \_\_\_\_\_ between Zechariah and Mary.

4. Mary’s prayer is filled with allusions to various OT scriptures which emphasize God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and His regard for the \_\_\_\_\_.

Zeph. 3:17—*The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save...*

Psa. 89:10—*You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.*

Psa. 107:9—*For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*

**Key Point:** The account of Mary emphasizes the matchless \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s promises to those who will receive them in simple \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Luke then details the events immediately surrounding the birth of Jesus (2:1-21)**

1. The account emphasizes the sovereignty of God over the \_\_\_\_\_ of history.

Luke 2:4-6—<sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

2. The account of the shepherds served to \_\_\_\_\_ Mary's description of what God had come to accomplish in Jesus.

Luke 2:8-11—<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

⇒ The angel's words to the shepherds recall God's promises that His people would hear good news and would behold Him (Isa. 40:9-11).

3. That the shepherds found things just as the angel had said let them to \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 2:20—And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Key Point:** These events confirm the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word in the immediate and underscore therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Word regarding that which has not yet been fulfilled.

- **Luke goes on to describe other events that occurred following the birth of Jesus' birth (2:21-38)**

1. Having come to the temple to do as the Law required, Joseph and Mary were approached by an older man named Simeon.

Luke 2:29-32—<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

⇒ Simeon understood that this child was the embodiment of God's promised \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The account then describes the actions of a prophetess named Anna.

Luke 2:36-38—<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

⇒ Anna understood the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to others.

**Key Point:** The accounts of Simeon and Anna emphasize that God can give assurance to those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in order that they too might live out their final days with hope.

## Letting Luke Shape Our Advent

1. The Advent season reminds us that our God has \_\_\_\_\_ for the lowly.

Isa. 40:10-11—<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

2. The Advent season offers us a chance to reflect upon God's \_\_\_\_\_ and His promises so that we might live with \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the various seasons of life.

Rev. 5:11-13—<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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***Barrenness***

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2. Zechariah and Elizabeth are an example of the faithful remnant of Israel who were awaiting the fulfillment of God’s promises to His people.

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**Key Point:** The account of Zechariah and Elizabeth displays how God shows His personal kindness in the midst of the unfolding of His wider plans and purposes.

##### ***Mary***

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