

- ↪ **Luke 1:5-16;** The New Testament is the record of the person and work of Jesus Christ, both in His earthly 3-year ministry and His ongoing ministry through His Body, the church. The New Testament is the story of Jesus the King! King of the Jews, Gentiles, the earth, the universe.
 - ↪ A prophet hasn't risen since Malachi and the final words God spoke to him 400 years before were **Malachi 4:5-6**. That is where this all starts!, verse 17, John the Baptist appears on the scene and 400 years of silence from God is broken as this prophet announces the coming of the King.
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1. John's story begins in a very small way, a pregnancy, but it's a miraculous one!

- ✓ God frequently begins things in a very small and unnoticed way. God has nothing to prove to anyone in this process; He's just moving in love and in perfect timing to do what the world needs.
- ✓ The story begins with a simple man named Zechariah and a simple woman named Elizabeth, **verse 5**. Zechariah was one of 18,000 priests who served in the Temple in Jerusalem; they were broken up into 24 divisions. Zechariah was a small man in the scheme of things: he was one of 18K and 24 divisions who led an otherwise unremarkable life. For that reason, Luke just calls him a "certain priest."
- ✓ An undistinguished couple who were distinguished in the eyes of God. **verse 6**. They would not have been seen that way by their peers, **verse 7**.

2. Distinguishing the Undistinguished, verses 8-9.

- ✓ Very understated here; this would have been the highlight of this man's life. This would have only ever happened once, if at all. Many would never get the privilege, and some would live a long time before it ever came to them. He's never been in the temple in his life and he will never be back.

3. Something happened that never happens, verses 10-11.

- ✓ Can't actually say never, but almost never; it's been 500 years since the last angel appeared. Verse 12, Luke is the king of the understatement here; he's already on high alert and then this happens!
- ✓ The angel brings a word from God to Zechariah and Elizabeth and a word to the world; He remembers His oath to save and redeem, **verses 13-17**.
- ✓ Verse 5, this couple's names have some interesting meanings.

4. The Supernatural breaks forth on the natural.

- ✓ Miracles are something we have to clear up here at the beginning. One of the largest overriding themes of the entire Gospels and Luke in particular is the presence of miracles. A miracle is by definition an act or event that is entirely supernatural. There is no possible human, rational, empirical explanation for them, and if there is, then it isn't a miracle.
- ✓ A true miracle cannot be explained with anything other than the statement: "It was God doing something." It had been 500 years since the last miracle; 500 years since the last angel.

What we are going to see is that God's intervention into history is going to be visited by scores of miracles. We aren't going to be able to apply scientific laws to any of it.
