



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

Unbelief Unspoken!

JANUARY 29, 2026

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Luke 1:15-22 *“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16) And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17) He will also go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” 18) And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” 19) And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20) But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.” 21) And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. 22) But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. (NKJV)*

BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER, AND HE WILL PREPARE
THE WAY BEFORE ME. MALACHI 3:1

How was this child to be so great? What would never and would always control him? Was he chosen by God for a special purpose even before he was born? Would he influence the whole nation? What Old Testament prophecy referred to Elijah? Which of these descriptions was John’s most important job? Did Zacharias believe the angel who had provided the answer to his lifelong prayer? Did he stumble over their old age? Does God allow his unbelief to continue to be spoken?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 5: LUKE 1:23-33 *THE ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH*
- FEBRUARY 12: LUKE 1:34-44 *THE IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD*

It has been at least 400 years since God’s people in Israel had heard from Daniel or any of the prophets. For their disobedience, they had suffered unbelievable atrocities at the hand of Antiochus Epiphanes, as prophesied by Daniel. There had been no Israelite king for all these four centuries, and now, though the Jews helped the Roman Empire by initially being their allies, Rome has just installed their first king over them since their deportation in 586 BC. Then, suddenly, as Zacharias is offering incense in the Temple, Gabriel tells him about his son!

“FOR BEHOLD, THE DAY IS COMING, BURNING LIKE AN OVEN, AND ALL THE PROUD, YES, ALL WHO DO WICKEDLY WILL BE STUBBLE, AND THE DAY WHICH IS COMING SHALL BURN THEM UP.” ... BUT TO YOU WHO FEAR MY NAME THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL ARISE WITH HEALING IN HIS WINGS; ... “BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET, BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD. AND HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND STRIKE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE.”

MALACHI 4:1, 2, 5-6

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

Unbelief Unspoken!

I. TRUE GREATNESS

LUKE 1:15-17

The first description of John the Baptist places him above all the others, “*For he will be great in the sight of the Lord.*” True greatness is not found in the popularity and accolades of men, this greatness was not only on earth, but eternal because it speaks of his greatness before God. Jesus said of John, “*Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist*” (Matt. 11:11). This greatness was not inherent within John, it was within the one who controlled him. He will avoid the control of intoxicating substances with the strongest negation available in the Greek (literally, “*wine or strong drink he will not possibly drink*”), instead, “*He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.*” The moment his developing ears, within his mother’s womb, heard the voice of the virgin Mary, he “*leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit*” (Lk. 1:41, 44). Most importantly, his life would be characterized by influencing others to “*turn*” “*to the Lord their God.*” The prophecy of Malachi takes on greater precision in the words of Gabriel in that John “*will also go before Him* (referring back to “*the Lord their God*”) *in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.*” His greatest accomplishment was that he would “*make ready a people prepared for the Lord,*” a second reference to the coming Messiah as being God Himself.

AND DO NOT BE DRUNK WITH WINE, IN WHICH IS
DISSIPATION; BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.
EPHESIANS 5:18

II. TRAGIC GLOOM

LUKE 1:18-20

After Zacharias had heard that his lifelong prayer would be answered, and that his son would be the prophesied one that everyone was looking for in the person of Elijah, he looks at himself, stumbling over his old age. Though he knew that Abraham was promised Isaac at 100 years old, through barren Sarah who was then 90, he refused to

believe that he and Elizabeth could have a son. Rather than rejoicing in this most incredible answer to their prayers, he demands a sign to prove what he heard was true. “*How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.*” Gabriel is indignant at this refusal to believe his words. He is only the messenger, the words come from God whom he represents. “*I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.*” The word for “*glad tidings*” is the same word that titles this book, it is “*Gospel.*” This first time it is used, it presents the “*good news*” of answer to prayer. So Gabriel answers with a sign that Zacharias does not expect, “*behold, you will be mute.*” Why? “*Because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.*” Unbelieving Zacharias will not be able to tell this “*good news*” until after his son is born.

SO WE SEE THAT THEY COULD NOT ENTER IN BECAUSE OF
UNBELIEF. HEBREWS 3:19

III. TROUBLED GESTURES

LUKE 1:21-22

The people who are praying in the temple courtyard at this hour of incense, finish their prayers and begin to be concerned for Zacharias. They “*marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.*” Usually the priest who had been chosen to have the privilege to enter the holy place of the temple and offer incense, would quickly pray and then depart from the sacred enclosure next to the Holy of Holies for fear of being judged for some unconfessed sin. Normally, when they came out of the holy place, they would give a benediction over those who were praying and then all the priests would join in a repetition of that benediction. Instead, suddenly Zacharias realized that “*he could not speak to them.*” What Gabriel told him was already causing him to “*remain speechless.*” So he tried to communicate with his hands and “*beckoned to them,*” only convincing them that “*he had seen a vision.*” His unbelief had robbed him and the people of the joy of answered prayer.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you believed in the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and received him as your Lord and Savior?
- 2) Do you allow other substances or things to control your life or are you filled with the Holy Spirit?
- 3) Are you a believer in Jesus Christ but have lost your joy because of unbelief or disobedience to His Word?