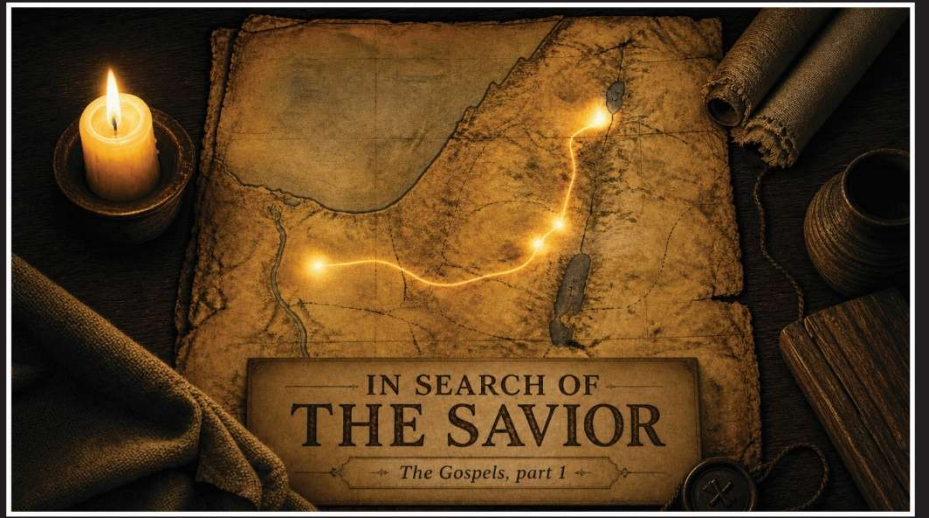


Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor



When God Breaks the Silence

Luke 1:5-25

By the time Luke opens his Gospel:

- 400 years of prophetic silence since Malachi
- 500 years since an angelic manifestation
- 800 years since the miracles of Elijah and Elisha
- The burning Jewish question: "When will the Messiah come?"

God breaks the silence - through Gabriel, through a priest, in a temple. This passage has **five scenes** that show what happens when God breaks His silence.



I. The **Calling** (1:13-17)

- "Blameless" does not mean sinless perfection, but to live in such a way that reflects quick repentance, steady obedience, and genuine devotion. No one can make an immoral accusation against you, and it sticks.
- "in the sight of God" – points to how others may have questioned this couple because of their barrenness, but God said they were righteous.

Allotment of Priests Serving in the Temple

20,000 PRIESTS:

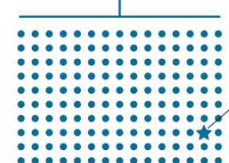
24 lots of priests:



4-9 "houses" of priests
within a lot:



About 150 priests
per house:



Zacharias

Chart Source: Charles Swindoll

II. The **Challenge** (1:18)

- Note the difference between Zacharias here and Mary in verse 34. Both receive an announcement from Gabriel. Both ask a question. But the spirit behind each question is entirely different.

- Zacharias knew the story of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 21:1-2). He knew what God had done before.

III. The **Correction** (1:19-20)

- Zacharias protests, "I am old!" Gabriel answers, "I am Gabriel!" Gabriel himself should have been sufficient proof.

IV. The **Commitment** (1:21-22)

- Zacharias "kept making signs", which, in the Greek, describes ongoing, repeated action.
- His nine-month silence before fulfillment of God's promise is similar to the 400-year silence that preceded the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

V. The **Celebration** (1:23-25)

- The story does not end in silence. When John was born and Zacharias obeyed God's instruction to name him John (v.63), Luke 1:64 records: *"Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God."* His full song of praise is recorded in Luke 1:67-79.

Applications for Today:

1. **God often speaks to His people and calls them while they are busy doing their daily tasks.** Moses was tending sheep (Exodus 3:1). David was in the fields (1 Samuel 16:11-12). Gideon was threshing wheat (Judges 6:11). Peter and Andrew were casting their nets (Matthew 4:18). It is difficult to steer a car when the engine is not running. When we get busy in faithful service, God begins to direct us.
2. **God often waits until it is too late with us. It is NEVER too late for Him.** Zacharias and Elizabeth waited decades. God's silence is not His abandonment. Romans 8:28 says that He causes all things - not just the good things, but all things - to work together for the good of those who love Him. Even the long and painful seasons of waiting are being worked together for your good. He is not late. He has not forgotten. His timing is perfect.
3. **Approach God's promises with trust, not with demands for more evidence.** Zacharias lost his voice because he needed more proof before he'd believe. Mary received the blessing because she received God's Word with faith and surrender.