

Luke 1:5-25, Exposition of the Text on the Annunciation of John the Baptist's Birth

Firm Foundation Christian Church, Christmas Bible Study, 12/2/2016, Prepared by James Moriello

1. John the Baptist's Birth Announced to Zacharias marks the end of over 400 years of silence, fulfilling Malachi 3:1
2. v.5, Zacharias a Jewish priest, a Levite, of the family of Abijah
3. v.5, Cf. 1 Chronicles 24:10, 24 courses of priestly service, 2 weeks each, cannot get precise date by this, 13th month in the Hebrew calendar 7 years out of 19, no evidence of the courses following the year or otherwise
4. v.9-11, daily offering of incense, altar of incense in the Holy Place (Deuteronomy 33:10), why this is almost definitely not the Day of Atonement (no mention it was that day, courses relevant to daily duties but not the DOA, in verse 11 Zachariah was at the "altar of incense" which is in the Holy Place but it is not said that he was in or had entered into the Most Holy Place), once in a lifetime privilege given the number of priests to offer daily incense
5. v.11, ministry of angels, Hebrews 1:14
6. v.13, delayed answer to prayer
7. v.15, purpose in life before it begins (Jeremiah 1:5; Ephesians 1:4)
8. v.15, OT filling of the Holy Spirit occasional rather than NT normative (1 Corinthians 3:16)
9. v.15, Nazarite Vow, Numbers 6:1-4, John was likely a Nazarite from birth
10. v.16, the minister's duty, the evangelist's duty, your duty (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 9:16)
11. v.17, forerunner "in the spirit and power of Elijah", define that in terms of preaching/lifestyle
12. v.18, unbelief, despite being a priest, and well acquainted with God's miracle power
13. v.19, "Gabriel", "God is my strength", messenger angel, Cf. Daniel 9:21
14. v.20, mute and deaf, need for signing and written communications, Cf. Luke 1:62
15. v.23, a two week service period having elapsed
16. v.24, shortly thereafter, no specific time frame given, further refutes date setting of Jesus' birth
17. v.25, opening of the barren womb of Elizabeth, Cf. Genesis 11:30; 1 Samuel 1:5



Photo Taken at the Mennonite Information Center, Tabernacle Replica, Lancaster, PA
The priest is standing to the right of the altar of incense (See Luke 1:11).