

The Story Church - 12.11.22

A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 1: *How Can It Be?*

Part Two: *When God Makes You Wait*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Think of a time when you asked God for something, and it just... didn't...happen, or it took way longer than you felt like it should have. How did that time you spent waiting on God affect your faith in Him? What did you learn during that season?

The last books of the Old Testament were written around 400 years before the birth of Jesus. What were the people of Israel waiting for throughout those four centuries?

READ: Malachi 4:5-6 - "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

READ: Luke 1:5-17 - In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

What (or who) is the connection between these two passages that were separated by over four centuries?

What is the relationship between the O.T. prophet Elijah and John the Baptist? (Check out Matthew 11:11 for an important reference!)

Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth? What had they been waiting for, and why was it such a struggle?

Let's think about 3 things the Bible says about God and *waiting*:

1. GOD MAKES _____
Your Notes:

2. GOD MAKES _____
Your Notes:

3. AT _____, GOD _____
Your Notes:

December 2022 Reading Plan

<p><u>Week 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 12/5 - Colossians 4:7-14 (esp. 4:7), Philemon 1:23-24, 2 Timothy 4:9-13 (esp. 4:11)<input type="checkbox"/> 12/6 - Luke 1:1-7<input type="checkbox"/> 12/7 - 1:8-17<input type="checkbox"/> 12/8 - 1:18-20<input type="checkbox"/> 12/9 - 1:21-25	<p><u>Week 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 12/12 - 1:26-33<input type="checkbox"/> 12/13 - 1:34-38<input type="checkbox"/> 12/14 - 1:39-45<input type="checkbox"/> 12/15 - 1:46-56<input type="checkbox"/> 12/16 - 1:57-66
<p><u>Week 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 12/19 - 1:67-80<input type="checkbox"/> 12/20 - 2:1-7<input type="checkbox"/> 12/21 - 2:8-14<input type="checkbox"/> 12/22 - 2:15-20<input type="checkbox"/> 12/23 - 2:21-24	<p><u>Week 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 12/26 - 2:25-35<input type="checkbox"/> 12/27 - 2:36-40<input type="checkbox"/> 12/28 - 2:41-52<input type="checkbox"/> 12/29 - 3:1-20<input type="checkbox"/> 12/30 - 3:21-38