



Bible Teaching Resources

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A GIFT Too Wonderful for Words

“Christmas: When God Came Downstairs with a Baby in His Arms”

STUDY NUMBER ONE – TRACING THE SEED – (VARIOUS PASSAGES) NOTES

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWO – CHRIST IN THE PROPHETS – (VARIOUS PASSAGES)**NOTES****Isaiah 7:14; 9:6, 7****Jeremiah 23:5, 6****Micah 5:2****Zechariah 9:9; 12:10****ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

STUDY NUMBER THREE – THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST – LUKE 1:5-80**NOTES****Introduction of the Parents — vv. 5-7**

v. 5 There was in the days of Herod, King of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

v. 6 And they were both righteous in the sight of God, ordering their lives blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

v. 7 And they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both had gone far in their days.

Gabriel Visits Zacharias — vv. 8-23

v. 8 Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division,

v. 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot when he entered into the temple of the Lord to burn incense.

v. 10 And all the multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of the burning of the incense.

v. 11 Now there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

v. 12 And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

v. 13 But the angel said to him, "Stop fearing Zacharias, because your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

v. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will be rejoicing at his birth.

v. 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

v. 16 And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.

v. 17 And he will go before his face in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; to prepare for the Lord a people having been made ready."

v. 18 And Zacharias said to the angel: "Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man and my wife has advanced in her days."

v. 19 And the angel answering said to him: "I am Gabriel, the one who stands before God; and I was sent to speak to you and to bring to you this good news.

v. 20 And behold you shall be silent and not able to speak until the day these things come to be, because you believed not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season."

v. 21 And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they marvelled while he tarried in the temple.

v. 22 But when he came out, he was not able to speak to them; and they knew that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he continued beckoning them (making signs), and he remained dumb.

v. 23 And it came to be when the days of his ministry were fulfilled, he went to his house.

Elizabeth Is Pregnant — vv. 24-25

v. 24 Now after these days, Elizabeth his wife conceived and hid herself five months, saying,

v. 25 "For in this way the Lord has dealt with me in days wherein He looked upon [me] to take away my reproach among men."

Gabriel Visits Mary — vv. 26-38

v. 26 Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, the name Nazareth,

v. 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the name of the virgin, Mary.

v. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail! You who have been endued with grace, the Lord is with you."

v. 29 Now she was greatly troubled at the saying and was considering of what sort a greeting this might be.

v. 30 And the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found grace with God.

v. 31 And behold you will conceive in your womb, and you will bring forth a son, and you will call His name Jesus.

v. 32 This one shall be great and He shall be called Son of [the] Most High; and the Lord God shall give to Him the throne of His father David.

v. 33 And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and to his kingdom there shall be no end.”

v. 34 But Mary said to the angel, “How shall this be since I am not knowing a man?”

v. 35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you; wherefore also the one begotten shall be called holy, the Son of God.

v. 36 And behold, Elizabeth your kinswoman she also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month to her, the one called barren.

v. 37 For no word from God shall be impossible.”

v. 38 Now Mary said, “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth — vv. 39-56

v. 39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste to a city of Judah.

v. 40 And she went into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

v. 41 And it came to be when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

v. 42 And she lifted up her voice with a loud cry and said: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

v. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

v. 44 For behold, when the voice of your greeting came into my ears, the baby in my womb leaped in exultation.

v. 45 And blessed is she who believed, for it shall be completed, the things having been spoken to her by the Lord.”

v. 46 And Mary said: “My soul is magnifying the Lord.

v. 47 And my spirit rejoiced in God my Savior.

v. 48 For He looked upon the low estate of His handmaid; for behold, from now all generations shall call me blessed.

v. 49 For the Mighty One did great things for me, and holy is His name.

v. 50 And His mercy is from generation to generation to the ones fearing Him.

v. 51 He showed strength in His arm. He scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

v. 52 He tore down princes from their thrones and exalted them of low estate.

v. 53 The hungry ones He filled with good, and the rich ones He sent away empty.

v. 54 And He helped Israel His servant, that He might remember mercy,

v. 55 even as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.”

v. 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned unto her house.

The Birth of John — vv. 57-80

v. 57 Now Elizabeth’s time was fulfilled to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.

NOTES

v. 58 And her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord magnified His mercy towards her, and they were rejoicing with her.

v. 59 And it came to be on the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him by the name of his father, Zacharias.

v. 60 And his mother answered and said: "No indeed, but he shall be called John."

v. 61 And they said to her, "There is none of your relatives called by this name."

v. 62 And they were making signs to his father, as to what he might desire him to be called.

v. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and he wrote, saying, "John is his name"; and they all marvelled.

v. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he was speaking, blessing God.

v. 65 And fear came upon all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.

v. 66 And all who heard them laid them up in their heart, saying: "What then shall this child be? For indeed the hand of the Lord is with him."

v. 67 And Zacharias his father was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying;

v. 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and made redemption for His people,

v. 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant—

v. 70 Even as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—

v. 71 Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who are hating us;

v. 72 To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant,

v. 73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,

v. 74 To give to us that we being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear,

v. 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

v. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways:

v. 77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,

v. 78 Because of the heart of mercy of our God, in that the Sun rising from on high shall visit us,

v. 79 To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace."

v. 80 And the child was growing and becoming strong in spirit, and was in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT – PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

NOTES

v. 1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if there is any solace afforded by love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if there is any affection and sympathy,

v. 2 make full my joy in order that you may be thinking the same thing, having the same love, united in spirit, thinking the one thing.

v. 3 Doing nothing from selfish ambition or from empty conceit, but with humility of mind regarding one another as excelling themselves;

v. 4 not looking out each one for his own interests, but also each one the interests of others.

v. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

v. 6 who, existing in the form of God, looked not upon this being equal with God a prize to be grasped eagerly,

v. 7 but emptied Himself, having taken the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.

v. 8 And being found in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

v. 9 Therefore also God exalted Him to the highest place, and graciously bestowed upon Him the name which is above every name,

v. 10 in order that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,

v. 11 and that every tongue should confess (plainly and openly agree) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER FIVE – FINAL FULFILLMENT – LUKE 2:21-40

NOTES

Born under the Law — vv. 21-24

v. 21 And when eight days were fulfilled to circumcise Him, and they called His name Jesus, which He was called by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

v. 22 And when the days of their purification were fulfilled according to the law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord,

v. 23 even as it is written in the Law of the Lord, that every first-born male opening the womb shall be called holy of the Lord,

v. 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what has been said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Simeon — vv. 25-35

v. 25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

v. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

v. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, that they might do for Him according to the custom of the law,

v. 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said:

v. 29 "Now Lord, let your bond-servant be departing in peace, according to your word;

v. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

v. 31 Which you prepared in the presence of all peoples,

v. 32 A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

v. 33 And His father and mother were marvelling at the things which were being said about Him.

v. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is set for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign to be spoken against—

v. 35 and a sword shall pass through your soul—in order that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed."

Anna — vv. 36-38

v. 36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in her days greatly, having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity,

v. 37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she departed not from the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

v. 38 And she, coming up at that very moment, began giving thanks to God, and continued speaking of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Going Home — vv. 39-40

v. 39 And when they completed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

v. 40 Now the Child was growing and becoming strong; becoming full of wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SIX – GOD THE GREATEST GIVER – 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

NOTES

v. 6 Now this I am saying: “He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

v. 7 Let each one give just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.

v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that having always enough of everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

v. 9 even as it stands written: “He scattered abroad, he gave to those who are poor, his righteousness is abiding forever.”

v. 10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

v. 11 you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

v. 12 Because the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

v. 13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.

v. 14 While they also, with petitions on your behalf, are longing for you because of the extraordinary grace of God in you.

v. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS – HEBREWS 10:1-17

NOTES

The REASON for Christmas

v. 1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things coming, and not the image itself of the actual things, is never able by means of the same sacrifices which they are offering continually year after year, to make perfect those who are drawing near.

v. 2 Since then would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshippers, once having been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

NOTES

v. 3 But in them (the sacrifices) there is a reminder of sins year by year.
v. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to be taking away sins.

The RECORD of Christmas

v. 5 Therefore, when He is coming into the world, He is saying: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.

v. 6 In whole burnt offerings also for sin you took no pleasure.

v. 7 Then I said: 'Behold, I have come, in the roll of the book it is written concerning me, to do your will, O God.'

v. 8 After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings also for sins you did not desire nor have pleasure in, which are being offered according to law."

v. 9 Then He said: "Behold I have come to do your will." He is taking away the first in order that He may establish the second.

v. 10 By means of which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The RESULT of Christmas

v. 11 And indeed, every priest has stood day by day performing his sacred service and time after time offering the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

v. 12 But this Priest, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

v. 13 waiting from that time onward: Until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

v. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

v. 15 And the Holy Spirit is also bearing witness to us; for after having said:

v. 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I am putting my laws upon their hearts, and upon their minds I will write them.

v. 17 And their sins and their lawless deeds, I will positively not remember anymore."

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
