

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Dec 2013 John 12 Live Selflessly
- 2) 08 Dec John 13 Serve Humbly
- 3) 15 Dec John 14 Believe Exclusively
- 4) 22 Dec Luke 1-2 Christmas Message
- 5) 29 Dec John 15:1-25 Stay Open and Obedient
- 6) 05 Jan 2014 John 15:26 – 16:33 Depend on the Spirit
- 7) 12 Jan John 17 Honor Jesus
- 8) 19 Jan Psalm 139 Value Every Life
- 9) 26 Jan John 18 Our Messiah - Abused
- 10) 02 Feb John 19:1-16 Our King - Condemned
- 11) 09 Feb John 19:17-42 Our Savior - Crucified
- 12) 16 Feb John 20 Live in Resurrection Power
- 13) 23 Feb John 21 Follow with Renewed Purpose

INTRODUCTION

- As we celebrate this Christmas we are one more year closer to the Lord’s 2nd coming
- It is interesting God got things rolling for the Lord’s 1st coming as His people were praying in His House of Prayer Luke 1:10

Passage	Comments
Luke 1:5-29	<p>Gabriel Foretells John’s Birth to Zechariah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zechariah, a Levitical priest, had the duty to burn incense in the sanctuary. Gabriel popped in to say Hi • Zechariah was “chosen by lot” signifies God even controls the roll of the dice..... Proverbs 16:33 • John the Baptist was going to be special from birth, as he was filled with the Holy Spirit while still in the womb • v10. “And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Incense was burnt twice a day in the temple, in the morning and in the evening. Incense signifies the prayers of the saints .Ex 30:7-8; Ps 141:2; Rev 8:3-4 ♦ This probably occurred on the Sabbath day, since there was such a multitude of people together; for on the weekday, there would only be the priests and Levites and some of the more devout people ♦ “I will bring them to My holy mountain & make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar” Is 56:7
Who was Gabriel?	<p>Though commonly spoken of as an Archangel, he is not called such in Scripture. Gabriel is only mentioned 4x in the Bible. Twice in Daniel and twice in Luke as a messenger of historical news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel 8:16; 9:21. Gabriel was commissioned to explain to Daniel the vision of the ram and the he-goat, and to give the prediction of the 70 weeks • Luke 1:19, 26. He announces to Zacharias the birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary the birth of Jesus • Other named angels in the Bible include Michael the Archangel (Dan 10, 12, Jud, Rev 12) and Satan/Lucifer
1:26-38	<p>Gabriel Foretells Jesus’ Birth to Mary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the Lord’s will for her life, Mary was going to be labeled a “loose woman,” an adulterer, a liar • Why didn’t Mary get disciplined for asking a question of Gabriel like Zechariah did? “How can this be?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Zechariah was disciplined for his lack of faith ♦ Mary asked out of curiosity – Miracle? or Natural?
1:39-45	<p>Mary Visits Elizabeth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary and Elizabeth may have been 1st or 2nd cousins, or possibly niece and aunt either by blood or marriage • Elizabeth realized Mary’s special pregnancy • Luke probably got these details directly from Mary

Passage	Comments
1:46-56	<p>Mary’s Praise Of God’s Goodness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary echoes many of the teachings from the Psalms • v48. Mary was definitely blessed by God for being chosen to raise His Son, but the Catholics went too far with venerating her beyond God’s intent. Mary was not a perpetual virgin, nor was she sinless (she needed saving), nor a co-redeemer with Christ, nor should we pray to her, nor was she assumed into Heaven
Luke 2:1-7	<p>The Birth of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was Jesus born in an open stable, a cave, or the basement of a relative’s house? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v7. “No room in the ‘inn’ – the “inn” word here is actually misinterpreted. A better translation is “there was no room in the ‘guest room’” – see Luke 22:11 & Mat 14:14 where this word [grk. kataluma] is used to describe the “guest room” where Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover ♦ Besides, Bethlehem was too small to have a hotel ♦ Luke actually uses the term for an inn in Luke 10:34 where he tells the story of the Good Samaritan taking a wounded man to an “inn” [grk. pandochion] ♦ Mary likely gave birth to Jesus in the opened lower level of a crowded in-law’s house, where animals might have been brought in for the night. She then wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger (an animal feeding trough used as a crib) ♦ Why such a humble beginning for the King of Kings?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Let us remember the real reason for the season – Jesus was born a babe in a barn to become our ransom from Hell
- And let us fight the good fight and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas

NEXT WEEK: John 15. If we abide in Christ and He abides in us then we will produce “much fruit,” get all prayers answered, glorify God, and prove to all skeptics we are His disciples



“Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!”