

Preparing The World For The Coming of God (1)
Luk 1:5-25

Intro. A. The world and all that is therein was created by Almighty God.

1. He created all things perfect.
2. Satan lifted his heart against God.
3. The world became chaotic and dark.
4. The Holy Spirit brought order and light.
5. God created the garden eastward of Eden.
6. He created man and woman and gave them power to populate the earth.
7. They sinned against God, broke His commandment.
8. They were cast out and separated from God.

B. God loved the world and all that was therein.

1. He was grieved by its sin and pain.
2. He knew the cost of its redemption.
3. A man had lost himself and the world.
4. A man must regain the world by redeeming ^{it}.
5. This man must be sinless and He must die.

C. The time had come for God to act.

1. Paul called it "the fullness of time".

Eph. 4:4 - "But when the fulfulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law".

$\pi\lambda\eta\eta\rho\omega\mu\alpha$ = that with which any thing is filled, or of which it is full, the contents.

Vs. 5 2. Here names are introduced.

3. Herod, King of Judaea.

4. Zacharias, a certain priest.

5. Elisabeth, a daughter of Aaron.

6. These will not be the parents of, "His Son" but of the forerunner of Emmanuel.

III. A Heavenly Messenger And Zecharias. (2)

A. The Priest and his work.

- Vs. 8 1. "...he executed the Priest's office..."
2. "in the order of his course".
- Vs. 9 3. "According to the custom of the priest's office".
4. "...his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord".

Ex. 30:7 5. The burning of incense, a symbol of prayer.
incense = an aromatic or white resin procured from trees, mostly in Arabia. It is obtained by making incisions in the tree and the gum flows out. It has a very pleasant smell when burned. It was burned by the priest twice a day.

Vs. 10 6. This was the time of the evening prayer. A great many people came and were in the courts of the temple.

B. The Heavenly messenger.

- Vs. 11 1. "An angel of the Lord".
- Vs. 12 2. Its appearance troubled Zecharias.
ταράσσω = "to stir up", "to agitate", "to disturb with various emotion".
- Vs. 13 3. The message was a welcome one.
(a). Answered prayer should quite our troubles.
(b). "for thy prayer is heard".
(c). thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son.
(d). "and thou shalt call his name John".

C. He, John, shall bring Joy.

- Vs. 14 1. The parents shall have Joy.
2. Many shall have Joy.
- "Joy" = χαρά = "delight", "to be pleased".
"gladness" = ἀγαλλίασις = exultation, leaping, dancing."

5. "...to ^①make ready a people prepared for the Lord".
- ① ΕΤΟΙΜάζω = to prepare, to provide ③
- ②. ΚΑΤΑΣΚΕΥάζω = to prepare (κατεσκευασμένων) =
 perf. pass. part. to furnish, to equip, to prepare,
 "to provide a people having been prepared.
 John provided people to Jesus who were already
 prepared for Him.

II. The Response of Zecharias.

- A. "Whereby shall I know this? γινώσκω
1. "How shall I know this for certain?"
 2. "I am an old man". προσηβύτης
 3. "... my wife well stricken". = προβεβηκώς
 εν ταῖς ἡμέραις = "advanced in the days"

- B. The angel's reply. (because)
- Vs. 19
1. "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God". The source of the promise!
 2. "... and am sent to speak unto thee".
 3. "... and to shew thee these glad tidings".

- C. God protects the people from Zechariah.
- Vs. 20
1. He would be dumb until John's birth. Why?
 2. Because He did not believe God's message and he would voice it to the people, hindering their faith. one's lack of faith is infectious.

- D. The people and Zechariah.
- Vs. 21
1. They waited for him.
 2. They were shocked by his long-stay.
- Vs. 22
3. They thought he had seen a vision.
 4. He remained speechless.
- ὄψασις = "an appearance".