The Silence Is Broken

Luke 1:1-25

Introduction

Apollo 13 – Show the three pictures of the launch, the damage to the rocket and the landing.

The silence was broken.

Four hundred years passed with no word from God. Then at last, the silence was broken as God prepared the way for the coming of his Son into the world.


Luke writes to give us:

I. Confidence in God’s Word. Luke 1:1-4

Luke was a friend and traveling companion of Paul.

- Early tradition suggests that Luke was born in Antioch of Syria.
- He was Greek.
- He was a physician before he became a follower of Christ.
- He was shipwrecked with Paul at Malta and jailed with Paul in Rome.
- “Only Luke is with me.” II Timothy 4:11

Luke was an historian of the first rank.

He writes to a man named Theophilus which means “one who loves God” or “a friend of God”.

Luke wrote this gospel “so that he might know the certainty of what he had been taught.”

Luke’s methodology:

- He used sources – “eyewitnesses and servants of the word”. Mark’s Gospel and the Apostle’s testimony.
- He investigated everything carefully, accurately, from the beginning.
- 30% of Luke’s Gospel is not found in the other gospels.
- He gives us an “orderly account” of Jesus’ life and ministry.
- He wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. II Peter 1:20-21
- He wrote so that we might have confidence in God’s Word.

II. Confidence in God’s Plan. Luke 1:5-17

An ordinary country priest – one of 8,000 at that time.
He would serve at the temple two weeks out of the year.
His wife Elizabeth is also a descendent of Aaron.
They were a godly couple, but they had no children.

One day Zechariah is chosen by lot to offer the daily incense in the Temple.

As he offered his prayers on behalf of the people, the fragrant incense rose as a sacred aroma to God.

Just then, an angel of the Lord appeared standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

The angel has come with a message from God. The 400 years of silence is broken.

God has come to bring salvation to his people.

This passage is rich with detail and meaning.

Christianity is not some new religion. It comes out of Judaism and is the fulfillment of what God has promised. It begins in the Temple with a word from God.


Zechariah’s name means “God remembers”. John’s name means “the Lord is gracious”.

God was answering two prayers – the prayer of a childless couple for a son and the prayers of the nation for a savior.

III. Confidence in God’s Promises. Luke 1:18-25

“How can I be sure?” Zechariah should not have doubted.

Because of his unbelief, he would be silent until the day John is born.

Zechariah’s response shows us that even good people can have doubts. And God was merciful in his response. Zechariah would be silent, but salvation would come in spite of human unbelief.

God was preparing the world for the coming of his Son.

Conclusion

How do we apply a passage like this to our life?

We can have confidence in God’s Word.

We can have confidence in God’s Plan.

We can have confidence in God’s Promises.