

WHEN SIMPLICITY BECOMES SPECTACULAR

*v1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, v2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. v3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, v4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. **Luke 1:1-4***

1. ZECHARIAH and ELIZABETH – Luke 1:5-13a, 18-25

1.1. THE SIMPLE

- 1.1.1. **JUST AN ORDINARY PRIEST AMONG MANY** – 24 Groups made up of about 1000 each *v5 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.*
- 1.1.2. **GOD-FEARING, LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE** - *v6 Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.*
- 1.1.3. **CHILDLESS, MATURE AND UNCOMPLICATED** - *v7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.*
- 1.1.4. **“LUCKY” TO BE CHOSEN** - *v8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, v9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.*

1.2. THE SPECTACULAR

- 1.2.1. **AN ANGEL APPEARS** – *v11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. v12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.*
- 1.2.2. **A CHILD IS PROMISED** - *v13 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 give him the name John.*
- 1.2.3. **STRUCK “DUMB”** - *v20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."*
- 1.2.4. **ABLE TO SPEAK AGAIN** - *v64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. v65 The neighbours were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.*

2. JOHN THE BAPTIST – Luke 1:5-13a, 18-25

2.1. THE SIMPLE

- 2.1.1. **LIVED SIMPLY** - *Mark 1:4-6 And so John came, baptizing **in the desert** region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. v5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. v6 John **wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.***

2.1.2. **LAW-ABIDING AND OBEDIENT** *Luke 1:14-15 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,*

2.1.3. **NAZARITE LIFESTYLE** *v15 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 from birth.*

2.2. **THE SPECTACULAR**

2.2.1. **REVIVAL PREACHER** - *Luke 1:16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.*

2.2.2. **MAKE READY PREACHER** - *v17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

2.2.3. **GREATEST PRE-CHRISTIAN HUMAN EVER** - *Matthew 11:11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

3. **JOSEPH and MARY** – *Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7*

3.1. **THE SIMPLE**

3.1.1. **HUMBLE, PRACTICAL, LAW-ABIDING, GOOD MAN and FATHER/PROVIDER** – Carpenter, caring, obedient, tax-paying.

3.1.2. **INNOCENT, PURE, BETROTHED, TRUSTING.** – The most important event in her life. To be unmarried was a disaster, to be unmarried and pregnant was suicide. *Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

3.2. **THE SPECTACULAR**

3.2.1. **GOD INCARNATE WOULD TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN HER BODY.**
Luke 1:35-37 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. v36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. v37 For nothing is impossible with God."

4. **THE SHEPHERDS** – *Luke 2:8-20*

4.1. **THE SIMPLE**

4.1.1. **SHEPHERDS IN A FIELD** – Nothing more ordinary than shepherds in a field, looking after sheep, in the land of Israel at the time of the birth of Jesus.

4.2. **THE SPECTACULAR**

4.2.1. **A HEAVENLY HOST OF SINGING ANGELS APPEAR AFTER ONE APPEARED WHO SPOKE TO THEM.** - *Luke 2:13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

4.2.2. **A GROUP OF MEN FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS AND ACTUALLY FIND JESUS WITHOUT GETTING LOST** - *Luke 2:15-16 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." v16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

CONCLUSION

**THE ULTIMATE SPECTACULAR RESULT IN ALL THE SIMPLICITY WAS
GOD'S WAS HONoured AND PRAISED!!!**

Luke 1:64-68 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. v65 The neighbours were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. v66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him. v67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: v68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

Luke 3:18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

Luke 1:41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

Luke 2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**GOD CAN USE YOUR ORDINARY AND MAKE IT
EXTRA-ORDINARY**

**GOD CAN TURN YOUR SIMPLICITY INTO
SPECTACULAR**

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