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The Angels of Christmas
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HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT
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SERMON NOTES

Week 1 November 27, 2022

“Standing in the Presence of God”

Luke 1:5-25

I. Introduction

- A. As children, the wait for _____ was agonizing and it seemed it would never get here.
- B. For many generations, there was always a group of Jewish people who waited every single day for the arrival not of Santa Claus, but of a _____.
- C. At some point in our Christian experience, _____ will seem so quiet, inactive, and silent, that we will say, “why am I doing this?”

II. Zechariah and Elizabeth

- A. Elizabeth and Zechariah were living their lives based on _____ that had been given a couple of thousand years earlier.
- B. The Jewish belief in the 1st century was that if a woman was unable to get pregnant, there was a sense in which God had chosen to _____ her for some unknown reason.
- C. By the first century B.C., the idea that somehow God was going to _____ the world through the nation of Israel seemed like it was no longer possible.

III. Zechariah and the Angel Gabriel

- A. The word _____ derives from the Greek *angelos*, meaning ‘messenger.’
- B. Messages from God, through the angels, demand a _____ from us, by word or action.
- C. The story of Christmas is a reminder that your faith and your hope is not in _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *Nov. 28 - Dec. 3, 2022*

INTRODUCTION

As a child, Santa's arrival was filled with great anticipation. When's he coming? Will he bring lots of goodies and toys? Does he have a special gift for me? There's always been a sense of anticipation around Christmas. The first Christmas was no different.

Monday: Genesis 12:2-3

Generation after generation of Jewish people waited for this promise to be fulfilled. By the time of the birth of Jesus, many Jews were giving up hope. What promises or hopes are you currently waiting for God to fulfill?

Tuesday: Matthew 16:24-26

Jesus never promised us that if we follow him, we will not have problems in our lives. He makes it clear that following him requires sacrifice. Do you ever wonder if being a follower of Christ is really worthwhile?

Wednesday: Luke 1:5-7

Zechariah and Elizabeth were both righteous in the eyes of God. In other words, they were living an obedient life in the eyes of God. Given the history of the Old Testament, why would Zechariah and Elizabeth be tempted to give up hope that God would still fulfill his promise to deliver his people?

Thursday: Luke 1:8-25

What stands out to you about the conversation between Zechariah and the angel? During his message, Pastor Eric said "messages from God through the angels demand a response from us, by word or action." What should be your response to this message from the Angel Gabriel?

Friday: Luke 1:26-27

After 2,000 years, God keeps his promise that the entire world will be blessed through the nation of Israel with the birth of Jesus. If Christmas is a reminder that the proper response to the frustration of God's timing and unanswered prayer is faithfulness, how is faithfulness exercised in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

Christmas is a reminder that God is active in our world and that he does keep his promises. Be reminded that neither your faithfulness nor your hope in God is in vain. Like the characters in the first Christmas story, and the generations that preceded them... wait faithfully.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Christmas, B) Messiah, C) God. IIA) promises, B) curse, C) bless. IIIA) angel, B) response, C) vain.