

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

REDISCOVER THE WONDER OF THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

REDISCOVER THE
WONDER OF HOPE
PART 1



ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH — THE SETTING —

ISRAEL

God's chosen nation—was under Roman rule.

HEROD

a degenerate Jew—was Israel's puppet king.

PALESTINE

the Promised Land—was filled with spiritual apathy and blatant immorality.

ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH — THEIR STORY —

ZECHARIAH

... "Yahweh remembers"

ELIZABETH

... "the promise of God"

Their One Flesh Identity

... "God remembers his promises"

ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH

THEIR STORY

They lived with the ongoing cultural shame of barrenness.

"But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old." LUKE 1:7

ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH

THEIR STORY

They didn't surrender their hope to bitterness or apathy.

"Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly." LUKE 1:6

LUKE 1:8-10

When Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.



LUKE 1:11-12

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.



LUKE 1:13

The angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard."



LUKE 1:13-15

"Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord."



LUKE 1:16-17

“He will bring back many in Israel to their God. He will go 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.”



LUKE 1:18

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”



LUKE 1:19-20

“I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I’ve been sent to speak and tell you this good news. And now you will be not be able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

REDISCOVER HOPE

“AT THEIR PROPER TIME”

Biblical hope must be rooted in God's sovereign time!

LUKE 1:59-60

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

LUKE 1:62-63

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”

THE BENEDICTUS

LUKE 1:64

Immediately his tongue was set free and he began to speak, praising God.

THE BENEDICTUS



GOD NEVER BREAKS A PROMISE!

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because
he has come and has redeemed his people.”

LUKE 1:68

HEBREWS 10:23

“Hold unswervingly to the hope you profess, for
he who promised is faithful!”

HEBREWS 10:35

“Don’t throw away your confidence; it will be
richly rewarded.”

THE BENEDICTUS



GOD NEVER FORGETS!

“God has remembered his oath...”

LUKE 1:72

As we cling to the truth that God remembers, it will fuel an enduring faith and an abiding peace that will come upon us “like the sun dawning on each new day.” (Luke 1:78)

ISAIAH 49:15-16

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.”

THE
BENEDICTUS



GOD REWARDS THE
FAITHFUL!

“God has enabled us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

LUKE 1:74-75

THE CHRISTMAS BENEDICTUS

Stay hopeful!

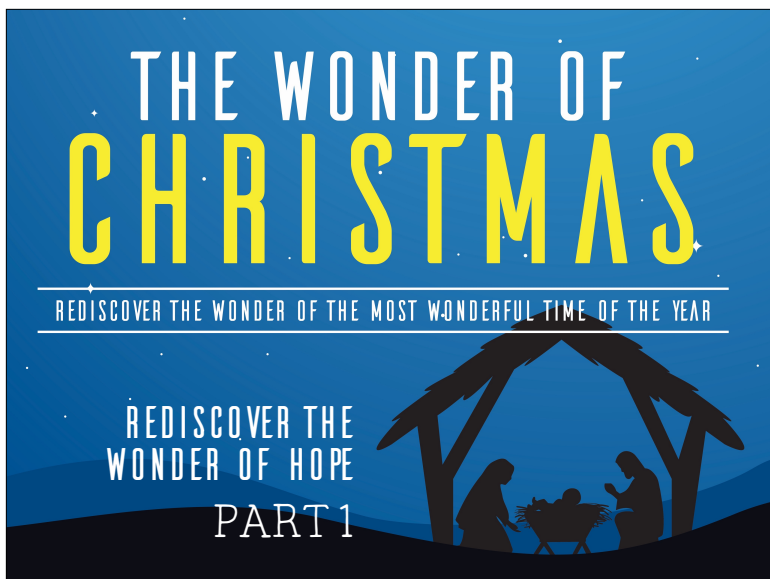
God won't fail you
—he keeps his promises!

God will never forget you
—he always remembers!



THE BLESSING

GOD REMEMBERS YOU
AND WILL FULFILL
EVERY SINGLE
PROMISE TO YOU AT
THE PROPER TIME!



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