

## Introduction for August 29, 2010

As we continue in Luke's infancy narrative, we are struck by the exchange between Gabriel and Zechariah and the majesty of God in it all. We must not allow ourselves to be caught up in the details and not see the big picture. Yet, when looking at the big picture, it comes into brilliant focus when we see the details. Luke has given us great insight into the plan and purpose of God through silence and has awakened in us a thirst and hunger for seeing and hearing the purpose of God. What a glorious God we serve! How masterfully He works His plan of redemption in history! Who but God would end 400 years of silence with an announcement of ten more months of silence? And, in so doing, declare His very fulfillment in time as it concerns His purpose? Truly silence is golden!

There is so much confusion in these days. Words, spoken and defined according to political correctness and sound bite phrases and slogans, are scattered about to accuse, defend, denounce, rebut and prove one's point without context. Thank God that when He spoke it was clear, concise, in context, absolute truth, convicting, challenging, conquering and commanding. There is no doubt with God or His gospel. God's truth stands and withstands – His Word is sure and tried. Gabriel came from the presence of God speaking good news. Oh, how desperate is our world today for good news - good news that penetrates every barrier and wall erected against it. It is desperate for good news that knows no cultural, racial or social boundaries, for good news that flows from the throne of God not from the presses of men, for good news assuring that, even in unbelief, Zechariah was greatly loved. God demonstrates His love to Zechariah by taking away his ability to speak and God shows His love to Elizabeth by taking away her reproach!

All of this is good news, for the good news is the announcement that there is a Savior. His name is Jesus the Christ who is Lord over all. He has come to save and call sinners to Himself.

God's purposed that Zechariah and Elizabeth be His instruments to bring about the glorious announcement, through a beloved son who would go before the Messiah declaring, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Let us pay close attention to this narrative and to God's work that we might be lost in wonder, love and praise!