

When God Stopped Being Silent

(Luke 1-4)

This Tuesday we will begin the gospel of Luke in our Bible reading. This is a great and wonderful book. It reveals the humanity of Jesus in a way that the other gospels do not (as the Son of Man).

It is also unique because of how it opens. In Luke 1 we see exactly when God finally broke His silence.

I. When God went silent:

- A. From the time of Moses God used **prophets** to communicate with His people.
- B. After the prophesying of Malachi (the last prophet of the Old Testament), God would be **silent**. There would be no new revelation.
- C. The Jews acknowledged this in the Apocrypha.
 1. This is a book of Jewish writings written during the time between the testaments.
 2. While they are inspired books, they do give us some insight into what was going on in the intertestamental period. They are great historical writings.
 3. In one of the books (1 Maccabees), at least three times it is acknowledged that during this time there had been no new prophets in Israel after Malachi.
- D. The period of silence began after God spoke of the coming of Elijah (Malachi 4:4-6).
 1. The coming of Elijah spoken of by Malachi is a reference to the coming of John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11-14).
 2. After God spoke about John's coming, He would be silent for 400 years!

II. When God stopped being silent:

- A. The appearance of an angel to Zacharias (Luke 1:5-17)
- B. The appearance of an angel to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- C. The prophesying of Zacharias (Luke 1:67-79)
- D. The announcements of angels (Luke 2:13-20)
- E. The prophesying of Simeon (Luke 2:25-32)
- F. The prophesying of Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
- G. The preaching of John (Luke 3:1-20)
- H. The baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-22)
- I. The preaching of Jesus (Luke 3:14-15)

III. Take home points:

- A. We are also living in a period of silence!
 1. Today, God is offering no new revelation (Jude 3; 2 Peter 1:3; John 16:13).
 2. Everything God wants us to know is found in His inspired word.
- B. One day God will once again break His silence!
 1. There is going to come a day when mankind hears from God.
 2. That day will be when Jesus returns and the world is destroyed (the Judgment Day).
 3. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 25:31-46).
- C. What are you going to hear Him say on that day?

Conclusion: Our obedience to the things God has already said will determine what we will hear when God speaks again!