

A Visit from Gabriel — Luke 1:1-25
Basil Howlett — Carey Baptist Church — 23 November 2008

The Author: Luke

- An intellectual man.
- A medical man (Colossians 4:14).
- A loyal man (2 Timothy 4:11).
- A pastoral man: he wrote this gospel for Theophilus that he might know for certain that the things he had heard about Jesus were true (verse 4).
- He himself was certain because he had heard from eyewitness (verse 2).

The Old Couple: Zechariah and Elizabeth

- They lived at a dark time (verses 78-79), economically (2:1), morally (verse 5), spiritually.
- Zechariah was a priest at the temple, in the division of Abijah (verse 5).
- As well as the difficult days in which they lived, they also had a personal trial. They had no children and were now elderly (verse 7). That was regarded as a disgrace in Judea (verse 25).
- In those difficult days they had:
 - The joy of being righteous in the sight of God (verse 6).
 - The challenge of obeying the commands of God (verse 6).
 - The privilege of being able to pray to God (v13).
 - The help of an angel of God (v11, Psalm 91:11, Psalm 34:7, Hebrews 1:14).
 - The comfort of a promise from God (verses 13-17).
 - God would intervene in their personal situation and give them a son.
 - This son would be someone very special and used mightily by God.
 - Zechariah doubted this promise and was struck dumb (verses 18-22).
 - The promise came true and Elizabeth was delighted (verses 24-25).

God can intervene in the darkest hour. We must not doubt his promise but plead with him to do so.