

# QUESTIONS

*to ponder*

**OPEN WITH:** Who is the “youngest” older person you know? What about them makes you identify them as such? Do you admire these qualities? Why or why not?

**CONSIDER FURTHER WITH:** What disappointments, unanswered prayers, or unexplained disciplinary actions from God have aged your faith? Explain how these things have hardened you?

Have you ever had God give you a “quiet time” that forced you to examine your disbelief or disobedience to Him? If so, share with us how you responded initially? After some time had passed? When (and if) you finally were let out of the quiet time?

Are there points in your life where you don't even really want to hope anymore? How would you like us to pray for you in this regard this Christmas time?

How can you rejuvenate your faith and hope, especially so that you “love Christ's appearing” (second coming)? How can we look to eternal things and the bigger plan of God's salvation in the midst of life's hardening disappointments? How can we help each other without seeming unsympathetic?

# DAILY SCRIPTURE

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|-----|--------|--|
| MON | Nov 30 | • Luke 1:26-56 – our key text focusing on the announcement to Mary.            |
| TUE | Dec 1  | • Luke 2:22-40 – other announcements to Mary after Christ's birth.             |
| WED | Dec 2  | • Genesis 3 – Note especially verse 15, often called “The First Good News.”    |
| THU | Dec 3  | • Genesis 12:1-9 & 25:19-26:5 – The promise narrows to Abraham & Isaac.        |
| FRI | Dec 4  | • Genesis 32 & 49 – The promises moves to Jacob & his sons.                    |
| SAT | Dec 5  | • 2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17 – the promise now focuses in on David's line. |
| SUN | Dec 6  | • Re-read Luke 1:26-56 to prepare for today's message.                         |



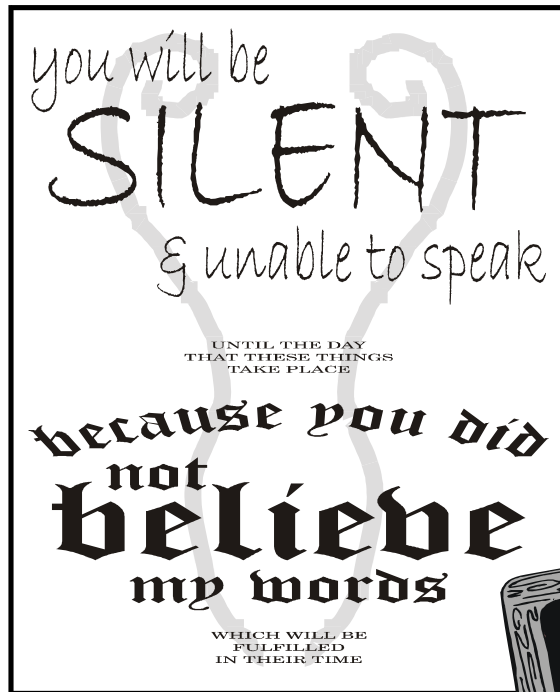
Let us ponder and celebrate the “Birth Announcements” surrounding the first advent (coming) of our Lord Jesus Christ.



November 29, 2009



# THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT TO *Zechariah*



*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
**GOD IS COMING**  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets  
from of old,*

**GOD IS STRONG**  
*that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
**GOD WILL SAVE US**  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,*

**GOD REMEMBERS  
HIS PROMISES**  
*to grant us that we,  
being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.*

**WE WILL SERVE HIM**

*From Luke 1:68-75*

