



**christmas Eve Service**  
**December 24th at 5 pm**

The First Advent  
of the King of all kings



**A Miraculous Birth  
Before *THE* Most  
Miraculous Birth**

# The historical period at the beginning of Luke's Gospel

## Anticipation for the coming Messiah

Daniel 2 prophesied of 4 kingdoms (and that God's Kingdom would arrive during the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom)... and the people of Israel were now living in the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom!

Daniel 9 prophesied the timeline for the Messiah's ministry, and based on the timeline, Israel was entering into that very generation.

Yet, the Messiah was to be preceded by a forerunner...

**Luke 1:5-12 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. <sup>8</sup> Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

**Luke 1:13-18 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. <sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup> He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

When we read God's word, how often do we consider what is written and think, "How can I be sure of this?"

**Luke 1:19-25 (LSB)** <sup>19</sup> And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands before God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time." <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and were wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup> But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. And he kept making signs to them, and remained mute. <sup>23</sup> And it happened that when the days of his priestly service were fulfilled, he went back home. <sup>24</sup> After these days Elizabeth his wife conceived, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, <sup>25</sup> "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked upon *me* to take away my disgrace among men."

**Luke 1:57-66 (CSB)** <sup>57</sup> Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she had a son. <sup>58</sup> Then her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her his great mercy, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> When they came to circumcise the child on the eighth day, they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother responded, "No. He will be called John." <sup>61</sup> Then they said to her, "None of your relatives has that name." <sup>62</sup> So they motioned to his father to find out what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they were all amazed. <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Fear came on all those who lived around them, and all these things were being talked about throughout the hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup> All who heard about him took it to heart, saying, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the Lord's hand was with him.

We know who John became. The question is, who will you become?