

This week...

Scripture: Luke 1

Monday Luke 1:11-13 *“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing on the right side of the incense table. When he saw the angel, Zechariah was startled and frightened. But the angel said to him, ‘Zechariah, don’t be afraid. God has heard your prayer.’”*

Have you ever explored the number of times angels appear in the New Testament? Take time today to look up as many references as you can, and make a note of their missions.

Tuesday Luke 1:19-20 *“The angel answered him, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand before God, who sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. Now listen! You will not be able to speak until the day these things happen, because you did not believe what I told you. But they will really happen.’”*

What are your thoughts on Zechariah being disciplined with the loss of hearing and speech for nine months? What do you think went on in his mind and life during those months of silence?

Wednesday Luke 1:26-29 *“During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, ‘Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.’ But Mary was very startled by what the angel said and wondered what this greeting might mean. The angel said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid, Mary; God has shown you his grace.’”*

“Blessed” in this context has much to do with the word “grace” or “unmerited favor”. In what ways had God blessed Mary? Think of blessings not only at this announcement but also of those experienced the rest of her life. Do you recognize how

God’s grace and blessing are at work today? Spend time in prayer thanking God for His hand of blessing.

Thursday Luke 1:31-33 *“Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.’”*

This will require some digging. Trace the name of Jesus > Yeshua > Joshua > Jehova > Yahweh to the Hebrew origin of the name YHWH. Are you able to discover the connection between the name of God and the Hebrew verb “to be”? When Moses’ authority and demands were questioned by Pharaoh, who was he to say had sent him? How does this fit into Jesus many references of “I am”? How many of Jesus’ “I am’s” can you find, and what is the significance of each?

Friday Luke 1:34-35 *“Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this happen since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to Mary, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.’”*

Using your Bible and some study tools, answer these questions. Where do angels come from? How are they active in creation? What is the future of angels? How is it possible to tell the difference between an angel of light and an angel of darkness?