

## **GOD'S HOUSE CALL TO SHEPHERDS (#2)**

The Sunday Christmas special has been entitled, **God's House Calls**.

God sent Gabriel to make house calls to specific spiritual mature believers and to announce the coming of His Son into the world:

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9)

The fact that God sent Gabriel meant that something big was about to happen in the redemptive history of Christ.

**This Christmas we have studied three house calls by Gabriel recorded in the Book of Luke.**

- God's House Call to Zachariah (Luke 1:5-23)
- God's House to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- God's House Call to Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)

This is part two of Gabriel House Call to the Shepherds of Bethlehem. We have been studying the following three doctrinal principles taught from Gabriel's visit to the Bethlehem shepherds.

- God is in control of the unfolding of human history as it relates to the redemptive plan of God.
- When God's will meets God's decree in God's perfect timing, great divine blessings flow from the redemptive plan of God into human history.
- It is important for spiritual mature believers NOT to miss their opportunity to participate in the unfolding of this redemptive plan of God in human history.

**This lesson will study the last two doctrinal principles taught by Gabriel to the Bethlehem shepherds.**

### **1. Last week we studied the first doctrinal principle:**

“God is in control of the unfolding of human history as it relates to the redemptive plan of God.”

### **2. The second doctrinal principle taught by Gabriel was:**

“When God's will meets God's decree in God's perfect timing, great divine blessings flow from the redemptive plan of God into human history.”

Jesus introduced **this principle** in the Sermon on the Mount: “**Thy kingdom** come. **Thy will** be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matt.6:10)

Paul taught **this same principle** in (Gal.4:4-5) “But when the fulness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **in order that** He might redeem those who were under the Law (3:13), **that** we might receive the adoption as sons.”

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Rom.5:6)

Gabriel told Joseph to name his first born son, JESUS - “because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt.1:21)

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

**3. The third doctrinal principle taught by Gabriel was:**

“It is important for Spiritually Mature Believers **NOT** to miss their opportunity to participate in the unfolding of this redemptive plan of God.”

Circumstances, people, or things of life must never dictate the spiritual believer’s participation in the unfolding of the redemptive history of the plan of God.

**4. We walk by FAITH and not by sight (2 Cor.5:7).**

- a. Zachariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:6-7, 13-17) – **spiritual** but barren and aged.
- b. Joseph and Mary (Matt.1:23-25; Luke 1:28, 31, 45) – **spiritual** but not married and virgin.
- c. Bethlehem shepherds (Luke 2:17-20) – **spiritual** but keepers of shadow Christology and Levitical Law.
- d. Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-26, 37-38) – **spiritual** but old and at end of life.
- e. Magi from East (Matt.2:2) – **spiritual** but Gentile astrologers.

All of these Believers’ circumstances were different yet they all participated in the unfolding of the redemptive history of the plan of God. **Write what did they all have in common?** \_\_\_\_\_

**“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Rom.10:17)**

**“And being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Rom.4:21)**

Notice how all these Spiritually Mature Believers participated in the unfolding of the redemptive history of the Plan of God.

- By faith, God fulfilled His promise with a miracle to Zachariah and Elizabeth (prophet of Christ).
- By faith, God fulfilled His promise with a miracle to Joseph and Mary (Only begotten Son of God).
- By faith, God fulfilled His promise with a miracle to the Bethlehem shepherds (Lamb of God).
- By faith, God fulfilled His promise with a miracle to Simeon and Anna (Redeemer of Israel).
- By faith, God fulfilled His promise with a miracle to the Magi (Star of Jacob/ King of kings).

**What lesson do you think God is trying to teach you from this Christmas lesson?**

As you prepare for 2009, let this attitude be in you that was in Mary

“Behold, the bondservant of the Lord;  
Be it done to me according to your word.”  
(Luke 1:38)

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As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 2  
Number of Words: 701 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 4,002 (approx.)