

Fear Not! There's HOPE !

Luke 1:5-25

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

December 20, 2015

Introduction

- The uncertain times in which we live!
- Fears projected in the future breeds hopelessness.
- Uncertain times of Zechariah and Elizabeth-- Luke 1:5-7
 - 1) Herod the Great was in power in Judea.
 - 2) Zechariah and Elisabeth both had names reflecting the faithfulness of God.
 - 2) Together they followed the Lord.
 - 3) One problem-- no children (v. 7)
 - a) Elizabeth was barren
 - b) Biological clocks had stopped!
- Zechariah "Once in a lifetime" experience!-- vv. 8-10

Fear Not ! There's HOPE !

A. God hears and answers our Prayers!-- vv. 13a

1. Zechariah's prayer for peace of Jerusalem, the coming of the Messiah, or for a son, an heir?
2. Our Confidence—1 John 5:14-15

B. God has a Plan! He is in control!-- vv. 13b-22

1. God's plan for John's life.
 - a. He will be great in the sight of the Lord. Matt. 11:11
 - b. He will not drink wine or fermented beverages.
 - c. He will be "filled with the Spirit" from the womb.
 - d. He will go before the Lord in the "spirit and power of Elijah"
2. God has a plan for you and I. Therefore, we can face our future with confidence—Romans 8:28
3. God has a plan for this world and our nation.
4. But knowing that God has a plan, and then trusting God are two different things. Zechariah's lack of confidence and consequences—vv. 18-22

C. God keeps His Promises!-- vv. 23-25

1. Politicians "pie crust" promises produce anger and hopelessness!
2. Our sovereign God is faithful to His promises.
 - a. Promises already fulfilled by God
 - 1) To Zechariah and Elisabeth
 - 2) To us
 - b. Promises yet to be fulfilled! We can trust Him!