

*It's my favorite time
of year: time for ...*



Bad Christmas Jokes



What do you have in
December that you don't
have in any other month?



The letter "D"

Why was the snowman
sorting through
the carrots?



He was picking
his nose

What do you get
from a cow
in a blizzard?



A brrrr-grrrr

What do you call
a chicken at
the North Pole?



Terribly lost

What do you call
someone who goes
crazy over Christmas?



Santamental

Where does Santa
go swimming?



The North Pool

What do reindeer hang
on their Christmas trees?



Hornaments

Why does Santa go
down the chimney
on Christmas Eve?



It soots him

Why doesn't Santa
get sick from soot?



He had a
flue shot

What do elves do
after school?



Their gnome work

What do you need
if you have pasta
for Christmas dinner?



An Advent
colander

Why would you give
a woman a wooden leg
for Christmas?



It's just a
stocking stuffer

The Birth of Jesus

As Told By Luke



Luke's Introduction (1:1-4)

- His goal: to write an accurate account of the gospel
- His sources:
 1. Eyewitnesses (*cf. autopsy*)
 - Heb. 1:1-2 ; 2:1-4; Acts 2:29-33; Deut. 19:15; John 8:17

Luke's Introduction (1:1-4)

- His goal: to write an accurate account of the gospel
- His sources:
 1. Eyewitnesses and those who ministered to Jesus
 2. Servants – galley-slave -> *assistant; intern -> ministers* (1 Cor. 4:1)

Luke's Introduction (1:1-4)

- His reason: “so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught”
 - Certainty; reliability
 - Accuracy; security against error

Liberty Commentary on the NT

“One’s faith is no more sure than the object upon which it rests. We can thank God that our faith rests firmly upon the unshakable historical facts recorded in His matchless Word.”

The Setting

- Malachi 3-4
 - God warned of judgment & a curse
 - Promise of Elijah
 - 400 years with no word from God

The Setting

- Old Covenant Economy
 - Righteous: Walking blamelessly in the commandments and requirements of the Lord (6)
 - Waiting for Elijah (cf. *Passover Seder*)

The Setting (5a)

- In the days of Herod, king of Judea
 - Herod the Great (son of Antipater)
 - Edomite (from Esau)
 - ‘king’ under Roman authority
 - Corrupt and ruthless

The Characters (5b-7)

- Zacharias (*Yah remembers*) and Elizabeth (*my God has sworn*)
 - Both descendants of Aaron (5)
 - Both righteous in the sight of God (6)
 - Both advanced in years (7b)

The Characters (5b-7)

- Zacharias (*Yah remembers*) and Elizabeth (*my God has sworn*)
 - Childless (7a)
 - They prayed for children (1:13)
 - But had given up hope (1:18, 24)

The Characters

- Gabriel (*man of God*)
 - Brings announcements from God
 - Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:11, 19, 26
 - “Looked like a man” (Dan. 8:15), yet everyone is troubled

The Story (8-25)

- Zacharias: priestly service (1 Chron. 24)
- Gabriel appears in the Holy Place (11)
- Zacharias is *agitated, stirred up* (12)
- Gabriel delivers his message: You will have a son! (13-17)

The Promise of a Son

- John (*God shows grace/favor*)
 - Great in the sight of God (Matt. 11:11)
 - No wine or liquor (Num. 6:1-21)
 - Filled with the Holy Spirit
(Judges 13; Acts 2:13f; Eph. 5:18)

The Promise of a Son

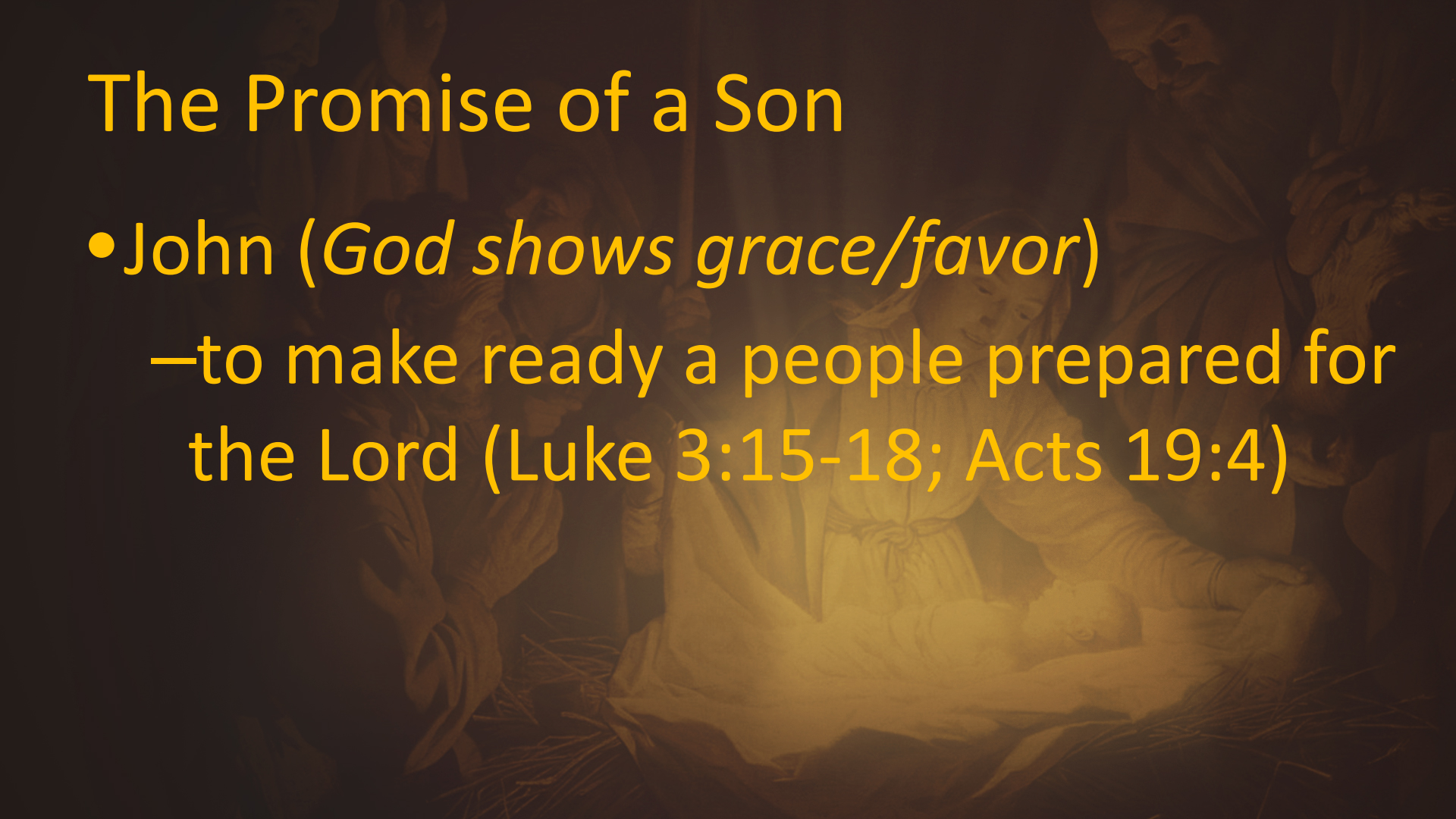
- John (*God shows grace/favor*)
 - Turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God (Mark 1:1-8)
 - Go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah (Matt. 3)

The Promise of a Son

- John (*God shows grace/favor*)
 - TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN (Mal. 4:6)
 - Turn the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous (Luke 3:7-14)

The Promise of a Son

- John (*God shows grace/favor*)
 - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 3:15-18; Acts 19:4)



The Story (8-25)

- Zacharias wants a sign (18)
- Gabriel gives him a sign (20)
 - Mute, but deaf, too? (see 1:62)
 - Rebuke? Doubt, or loss of hope?
 - Abraham/Sarah, Isaac/Rebekah, Jacob/Rachel, Elkanah/Hannah, ...

The Story (8-25)

- The people waited for a blessing (21)
 - They wondered at his delay
 - He couldn't bless the people
 - But see verse 68!

The Story (8-25)

- When his 2 weeks were finished, he went home (23)
- Elizabeth ends up pregnant (24)
 - She understood (25; cf. Gen. 30:23)

So What?

- It is important for us to know the truth
- Take God at His Word
- Trust God to accomplish His plan
 - Submit to His plan, even if it does not fit with your plan

So What?

- Wait patiently for the second Advent
 - Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)
 - In the mean time... 1 Tim. 6:11-16;
Titus 2:11-14; 1 Pet. 1:13-16