

The Gospel According to Luke

The Birth of Hope

Luke 1:5-24, 57-80 • December 2, 2018 • Pastor Brandon Cash

God works out His promises in His time, not ours.

The last words of the Old Testament: *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.* (Malachi 4:5-6)

The announcement of John's ministry: *And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.* (Luke 1:16-17)

God works out His promises through people we probably wouldn't choose.

Elizabeth: *But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.* (1:7)

John: *Now while he as serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.* (1:8-9)

Though the time and the people are unexpected, the fulfillment is as sure as the sunrise.

...because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. (1:78-79)