



November 28, 2021

“Be Silent, the Lord is on the Move”

Luke 1:5-25

The Parallel Birth Narratives of John and Jesus

The two great actors in God's redemptive story

An idea to consider: these two miracle cousins as representing the two covenants

In the Story of Gabriel's Appearance to Zechariah Announcing John

John carries multiple layers of allusion to the old Covenant

John is born into two priestly lines, one connected back to Aaron: v.5

Zechariah and Elizabeth are exemplary embodiments of the law: v.6

Zechariah and Elizabeth strongly echo Abraham and Sarah: v.6b (see Genesis 18:11-12)

Gabriel meets Zechariah in the holy place of the Temple: v. 8ff

John will fulfill the Elijah prophecy of the last verses of the OT: Malachi 4:5-6

After 400 years of silence the Old Covenant awakens in a new prophet

Jesus' riddle in Matthew 11:11: no one greater than John, but least in the kingdom

The Relationship Between John and Jesus

They are both great (1:14, 32) but Jesus is greater (1:43, 76; 3:15-16)

John not worthy to untie the sandal of Jesus

The Old Covenant a tutor until Christ came: see Galatians 3:24-26

Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it: Matthew 5:17,18

Jesus is the end (the perfection, completion) of the old Covenant: Romans 10:4

Muteness and Deafness as a Messianic Sign?

A rebuke, yes, and a sign of what is unfolding

Be silent, before the Lord, for He has roused Himself from His dwelling place: Zech 2:13

Preceded and followed by Messianic prediction: 2:10-11 and then 3:8-9

Joshua and Zerubbabel: the two anointed ones: 4:3-14

Zechariah resonances with John's ministry: see 4:6 (by the Spirit), 4:7 (mountain to plain)

Tentative thesis: Zechariah's muteness points people to Zechariah pointing people to J&J

Enough Speaking!

God will fulfill His plan despite Zechariah's struggling belief: Luke 1:20

Silence is the better posture before God: Ecclesiastes 5:2

Our words do not conjure but praise, are derivative instead of generative