

BIBLE STUDY

9/12/13

EXODUS 14:22-29

A. ²² The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

B. ²³ Then the Egyptians took up the pursuit, and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots and his horsemen

C. went in after them into the midst of the sea.

²⁴ At the morning watch, Yahweh looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. ²⁵ He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and he made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from Israel, for Yahweh is fighting for them against the Egyptians."

D. ²⁶ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen."

D. ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak, while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it.

C. Then Yahweh overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

B. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them; not even one of them remained.

A. ²⁹ But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

SELECTIVITY

SELECTIVITY IS A CRITICAL PART OF EFFECTIVE STORYTELLING. SINCE AN EVENT CONSISTS OF MANY MORE DETAILS THAN THE STORY THAT FLOWS FROM IT, THE BIBLICAL AUTHORS, WRITING UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PRACTICED SELECTIVITY, EMPLOYING ONLY THOSE DETAILS FROM THE HISTORICAL EVENT THAT WOULD MATCH THEIR THEOLOGICAL INTENTIONS.

John A. Beck, in a journal from Dallas Theological Seminary

The Selectivity of the Biblical Author: Luke

- All authors are selective. Whether it is a work of fiction or a historical record, such as Luke's gospel, the author decides, according to the purpose of his narrative, what to include and what to leave out.
- When we recognize this in the book of Luke, we become more aware of what is included and what is left out. We begin to ask questions of the text: Why is this item included, why is that item repeated so often, why might this information be left out.

Examples:

- Luke 1:36-58 ³⁶And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ...And the angel departed from her. ³⁹Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women..."
...⁵⁶ And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.
Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.
- Luke 1:8-9 ⁸Now it happened *that* while Zacharias was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division, ⁹according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

AT HIS BAPTISM,
JESUS PRAYS AND
THE FATHER
SPEAKS “YOU ARE
MY BELOVED
SON; WITH YOU I
AM WELL
PLEASED” (3:22)

IN BETWEEN
THESE EPISODES,
JESUS TEACHES
HIS LITTLE FLOCK
TO CALL UPON
HIS FATHER AS
THEIR FATHER:
“OUR FATHER,
HALLOWED BE
YOUR NAME...”
(11:2-4)

AT HIS DEATH,
THE SON CRIES
OUT, “FATHER,
INTO YOUR
HANDS I COMMIT
MY SPIRIT”
(23:44)

Keeping this prayer theme in mind, I want you to read this passage with renewed eyes:

NARRATOR: In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. Now it happened *that* while he was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. ¹¹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him. But the angel spoke to him.

ANGEL OF THE LORD: Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord...

Luke and Incense

What do these verses all have in common?

Exodus 30:1, 6-8

You shall make an altar on which to burn incense [to produce smoke that would fill the Holy Place]...And you shall put it in front of the veil that is before the ark of the testimony/covenant..., where I will meet with you. And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before Yahweh throughout your generations.

Psalms 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as incense before You;

And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Revelation 5:8

And when the Lamb had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 8:3-4

And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

Psalms 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as incense before You;

And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Isaiah 6:1-7

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said,

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory."

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said,

"Woe is me, for I am ruined!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I live among a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Keeping this incense in mind, I want you to read this passage with renewed eyes:

NARRATOR: In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. Now it happened *that* while he was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. ¹¹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him. But the angel spoke to him.

ANGEL OF THE LORD: Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord...

Introduction to Pride and Prejudice

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighborhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.

"My dear Mr. Bennet," said his wife to him one day, "have you heard that Netherfield Park is rented at last?"

Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.

"But it is," returned she; "for Mrs. Long has just been here, and she told me all about it."

Mr. Bennet made no answer.

"Do not you want to know who has taken it?" cried his wife impatiently.

"YOU want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it."

This was invitation enough.

"Why, my dear, you must know, Mrs. Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came down on Monday in a chaise and four to see the place, and was so much delighted with it, that he agreed with Mr. Morris immediately; that he is to take possession before September 29, and some of his servants are to be in the house by the end of next week."

"What is his name?"

"Bingley."

"Is he married or single?"

"Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune, four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"

"How so? How can it affect them?"

"My dear Mr. Bennet," replied his wife, "how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them."

"Is that his design in settling here?"

"Design! Nonsense, how can you talk so! But it is very likely that he MAY fall in love with one of them, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes."

Luke's Jigsaw Puzzle

To help you put this puzzle together, find the common elements to understand what is going on in the text concerning Gabriel's announcement to Zacharias.

Exodus 30:1, 6-8 You shall make an altar as a place for burning incense...You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the [covenant], in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the [covenant], where I will meet with you. Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight [following the evening sacrificial offering], he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before Yahweh throughout your generations.

Psalms 141:2

May my prayer be counted as incense before You;
The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

Daniel 9:20-21 [Daniel is in captivity and away from the temple and Jerusalem] Now while I (Daniel) was speaking and praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before Yahweh my God in behalf of the holy mountain (the temple and Jerusalem) of My God, while I was still speaking in prayer; then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

Luke 1:8-10 Now it happened that while Zacharias was performing his priestly service before God...according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer

outside at the hour of the incense offering. And an angel of the Lord (Gabriel) appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.

Luke 23:44-49 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said [prayed] this, He breathed His last.

Acts 3:1-4 Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along...

Acts 10:1-4 Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion...a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw in a vision an angel of God who...said to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ And being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

[Later] Cornelius said [to Peter], "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me saying, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

Luke and Prayer Compared to other Gospels

Luke 3:21-22

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Luke 9:28-36

²⁸ Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white *and* lightening flashes. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His exodus which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him.... After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him. And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Mark 9:2-8

Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus...

Luke 18:1-8

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, ² saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. ³ There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' ⁴ For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; ⁷ now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

