



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Luke 1-5
John 1-4
Matthew 1-4
Mark 1-2

Week 40

Daily Reading Plan:

- Luke 1, John 1:1-14
- Matt. 1, Luke 2:1-38
- Matt. 2, Luke 2:39-52
- Matt. 3, Mark 1, Luke 3
- Matt. 4, Luke 4-5,
John 1:15-51
- John 2-4, Mark 2
- REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

John 5
Matt. 5-7, 8:1-13, 12:1-21,13
Mark 3
Luke 6-8

MEMORY VERSE:

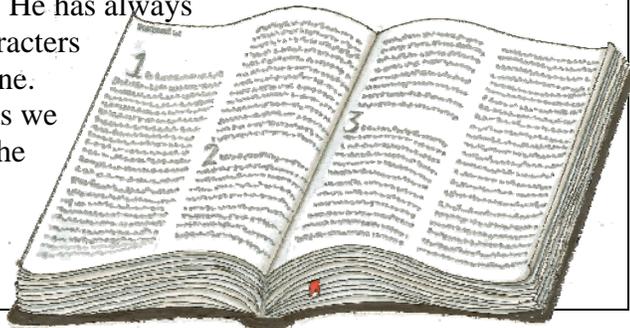
“Blessed is she who
has **believed** that what the
Lord
has said to **her** will be
accomplished!”
Luke 1:45

THE REST OF THE STORY

As we move from the Old Testament into the New Testament, I feel a bit like we are taking a flying leap across a huge chasm. In a way we are. Four hundred years have passed, and Israel has changed since our Old Testament visits. Most of us are only vaguely aware of the major world events that have occurred as connective strands through those “silent” years.

There is also the gulf that we perceive between old covenant and new, Father and Son. Instead of seeing the seamlessness of God's Sovereign movement throughout all time, we tend to look at entering the New Testament as our chance to leave all the unsavory, unpleasant and downright disagreeable attributes of God behind. Of course, we rarely put it quite so bluntly; but we do tend to draw a definite distinction between the character of God in the OT and the character of God in the NT – like we can finally claim a more comfortable God. Our image of God as the mild and loving Jesus feels much better than the God of fire and wrath. Both of those images are only partly true.

But God, all three of Him, has not changed. The New Testament is not some mysterious and convenient transformation of our God into something different than He was in the Old. This is the same story that we have been being told all along. Perhaps instead of thinking in terms of the old being replaced by the new like an out of date plan A edition being replaced by a new and expanded plan B edition, we should look at the testaments more as Act 1 and Act 2. We are entering a new and wonderful stage of His plans for mankind, but God Himself: as Father, Son, and Spirit, remains steadfastly the same. He is a God of love, as He has always been. He is still a God of wrath, as He has always been. Same characters and same storyline. So come along as we read the rest of the story.



ZECHARIAH AND ELIZABETH Luke 1

This was the perfect couple. They did everything right. Not only was Zechariah descended from Aaron as required of a priest, but Elizabeth was too. They were both upright and blameless ...and childless. Part of me wonders if it isn't a little easier to **be** blameless when you are childless! Nevertheless, God chose them to raise John the Baptist which must have brought them all sorts of trials, starting with the disbelief of Gabriel's announcement.

What was Zechariah doing when Gabriel appeared to him? _____

What did Gabriel quote from Malachi 4:6? _____

How was Zechariah dealt with for not believing Gabriel's words? _____

How was Elizabeth shown God's favor? _____

How did Elizabeth react to Mary's visit? _____

When did Zechariah become able to speak again? _____

What did Zechariah have to say about his son? _____

FAVORED Luke 1:26-56

Do you suppose Mary really felt very favored?

"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

Luke 1:38

How would you have reacted if you were her mother? _____

Read Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and Mary's in Luke 1:46-55. How are they similar? _____

How well do you think Mary knew Scripture? _____

What are some of the things you think she pondered in her heart? _____

What do you think she thought Simeon's words in Luke 2:35 meant? _____

ANNA Luke 1:36-38

"Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple..." Malachi 3:1

The Old Testament ends with yet another promise of the Messiah to come. The Jewish people looked for Him anxiously. As year after year, decade after decade, and century after century passed with no Messiah, how did they keep their hope alive? Did they begin to doubt the promise?

Apparently the prophetess Anna didn't. At 84, she had spent the vast majority of her life in the temple. Like Simeon, did she also expect to see the Lord before her death? Was she watching every day for the sudden appearance of her Lord? What made her recognize Him?

Imagine with me for a moment. You are part of a whole nation of people who are waiting. Not just waiting like at the checkout, or for the coffee to brew, but serious, drawn out, will-it-ever-end w-a-i-t-i-n-g. Not only had she waited all of her life, but she belonged to a people that had waited for the coming of Christ for their entire existence.



But there she was, serving God in the place that He had promised to appear. Then one day He did appear as an infant in the arms of His parents and **she** got to see Him! The Lord had not come to this temple until **this** day. I really cannot imagine the thrill that must have surged through Anna's being. I suspect the words "she gave thanks to God" don't even come close to describing the sense of awe and privilege that she must have felt. Did she dare touch Him or hold Him? We aren't told, What we do know is that she told everyone that was looking forward to the redemption Israel. Can you imagine the excitement in her voice as she announced "He's here! He has come at last!" Are you as ready to receive Him?



GABRIEL

How many appearances does Gabriel make in this week's reading? _____

What do you think it was about his appearance that caused people to be afraid? _____

Do you think angels are still active today? _____

How many angels do you think there are? _____

FAMILY TREE

Few things were as important to a good Jew as the record of all the good Jews they were descended from. It was their claim to tribal land and to their God. In the case of the Levites it determined their profession, and for the tribe of Judah it carried a special promise.

What was the promise? _____

What does this list of names mean to us today? _____

Who was Hezron's grandmother? _____

Who did Rahab marry? _____

Who was Rahab's son? _____

Who did Nahshon's grandson marry? _____

Who was Jesse's grandmother? _____

Who was Jesse's daughter-in-law? _____

Do you think any of these people understood their part in God's plan? _____

Do you? _____

BAPTISM

Matt. 3:11-17, Mk. 1:9-11, Lk. 3:21-22, Jn. 1:31-34

The rite of baptism had been practiced since Old Testament days to symbolize purification from sin or as a consecration of conversion. Such purification was required before entering the temple or taking part in religious festivals.

Many of these ritual baths or "mikveh" existed in Jerusalem by the time of the New Testament. They could hold 60 gallons of water and were large enough for a person to be totally immersed. ("Baptism in the Ancient World" 1562)

Why did John the Baptist baptize people? _____

What did John say would be the difference between his baptism and that of Jesus? _____

What does that mean? _____

MY FATHER'S BUSINESS

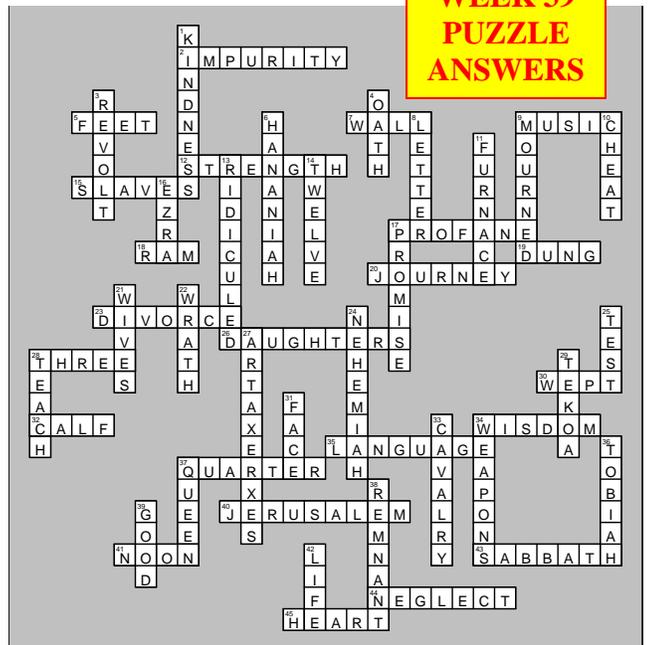
Lk. 2:42-50

I cannot remember my father without a limp. When I walked beside him, I would try to match his limping gait so we could be just the same. As a small child I wanted to be just like him. I loved it when I got to spend time with him- watching and imitating him. Someday, I would be just like him.

I wonder if the little boy Jesus was ever like that with Joseph. I wonder if He always had the awareness of His oneness with His heavenly Father. When did He realize who His real Father was and that His life work was not going to be carpentry? At age twelve He knew that He needed to be learning the family business. He knew that He wasn't going to be able to let anyone, even the family that He loved, and for the most part obeyed, stand in His way. He knew He needed to be getting in step with the purpose that He had come for.

I know now who my Father is as well, and I must be about His business.

**WEEK 39
PUZZLE
ANSWERS**



PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV translation)

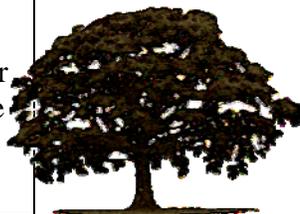
Across

1. given through Moses Jn.1:17
6. where Jesus was baptized Mk.1:9
7. what Jesus will baptize with Mt.3:11
9. where John lived Lk.1:80
12. what the darkness hasn't understood Jn.1:5
13. his mother-in-law was healed Lk.4:38
14. what Jesus did in the synagogue Mk.1:21
16. what Jesus did in a solitary place Mk.1:35
17. months Mary stayed with Elizabeth Lk.1:56
20. visitors from the east Mt.2:1
21. Zechariah lost the ability to because of his unbelief Lk.1:20
23. what John baptized with Jn.1:26
25. who Jesus came to call Lk.5:32
26. where Mary and Joseph fled to escape Herod Mt.2:13
27. a virgin in Nazareth Lk.1:26,27
28. Zechariah's wife Lk.1:5
31. what Mary's soul would be pierced by Lk.2:35
34. a Pharisee Jn.3:1
35. what is impossible with God Lk.1:37
36. what the word became Jn.1:14
38. what Mary had found with God Lk.1:30
43. appeared to Zechariah Lk.1:11
44. how Zechariah was chosen to serve Lk.1:9
45. the brother of Simon Peter Mt.4:18
46. John ate them Mk.1:6
47. what the men left to follow Jesus Lk.4:11

Down

1. Jesus touched a man who had this Lk.5:13
2. Jesus grew in this Lk.2:52
3. left behind Mk.1:18
4. the disciples picked heads of grain on this day Mk.2:23
5. a tax collector Lk.5:27
8. name of Elizabeth's child Lk.1:57-60
10. those who live by this come into the light Jn.3:21
11. what the Spirit appeared as Jn.1:32
12. where Jesus taught Mk.2:13
14. where Mary and Joseph found Jesus Lk.2:46
15. what Jesus was filled with Mk.1:41
16. where John ended up Mk.1:14
17. age of Jesus when His ministry began Lk.3:23
18. what Jesus preached Mt. 4:17
19. what John was Jn. 1:6-8
22. what Elizabeth was
23. Mary was Joseph's Mt.1:20
24. weren't allowed to speak Mk.1:34
29. who Luke is written to Lk.1:3
30. Jesus' first miraculous sign Jn.1:11
32. what Jesus used in the temple Jn.2:15
33. where the Samaritan woman was Jn.4:6,7
36. what Jesus asked the fishermen to do Mt.4:19
37. where no prophet is accepted Lk.4:24
38. days Jesus was tempted Lk.4:2
39. what John called the Pharisees and Sadducees Mt.3:7
40. the paralyzed man was lowered through this Mk.2:4
41. king of Judea Lk. 1:5
42. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem for this Lk.2:1-4

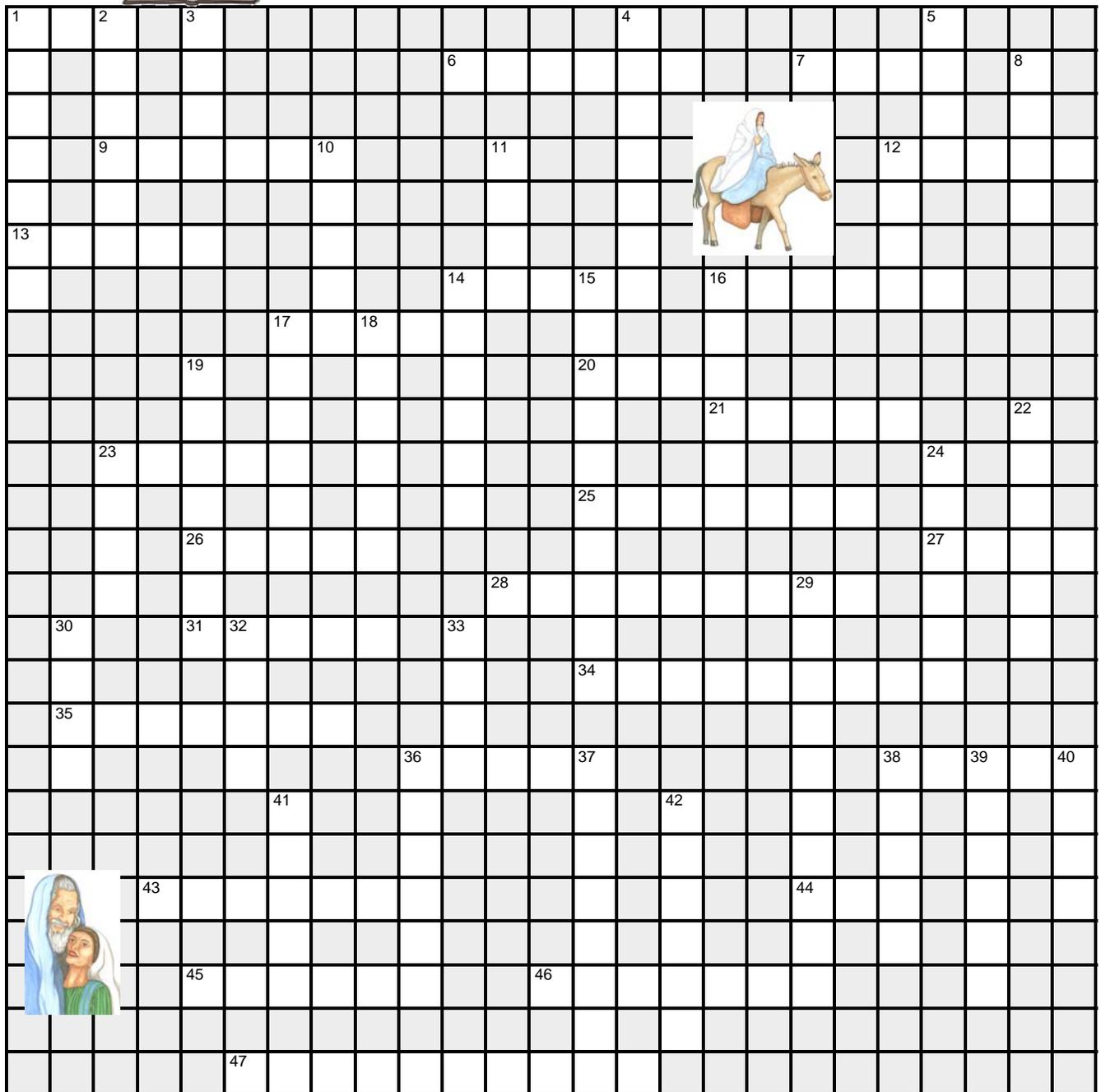
For comments or questions,
contact me at
victoryrd@hotmail.com or for
more studies visit my website
at downvictoryrd.com





PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 40



WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

BAPTISM p.3

"Baptism in the Ancient World." Archaeological Study Bible. 2005.



Jesus in the Wilderness

Matt. 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13



When was Jesus led into the wilderness to be tempted? _____

Who led Jesus into the wilderness? _____

What were the temptations that Jesus faced there? _____

Why did Jesus need to go through this? _____

God speaks those thrilling words to Jesus, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased”. Talk about being on the inside track ready to be swept along on easy street! But before those affirming words even had time to settle, the Spirit whisked Jesus away to the desert with its wild animals to deal with whatever Satan tried to throw at Him. Some expression of His Father’s love!

But how very necessary that Jesus, and we as well, go through those hard times of preparation and refining. If even Jesus had to learn obedience through suffering (read Heb. 5:8), then how can we expect to get by with anything less? The privilege of the time in the desert is that we realize how very strong God really makes us, and that we don’t have to wade through life hoping, but not quite sure, that the resources of self are going to cut it. Jesus needed to know that even in His human form, He had what it takes – namely God. That is exactly what I need to know too. Jesus did not use anything to resist Satan that is not also available to me.

Satan did not tempt Jesus that much differently than he tempts us.

How did Satan tempt Jesus with **comfort**? _____

How did Satan tempt Jesus with **safety**? _____

How did Satan tempt Jesus with **security**? _____

How does He tempt you with these? _____

How do you respond? _____

What should our attitude toward temptation be? _____

I WONDER....

At what point did God have this plan for coming to earth as a man? Before He even made man?

Did the gifts that the magi brought cover travel and living expenses for Joseph’s family on their trip to Egypt? Did God send them for just that purpose?

Did Mary ever have anything to do with her family again?

What was it like to be the mother of Jesus? Did she ever put Him in time out? Why did she expect Him to be able to turn water into wine? Did he do little miracles like that all the time?

Jesus seemed to accept His time of temptation as a necessary ordeal. Should we?