



Stories are invaluable.

The Christmas Story

Silence

The Old Testament ends on a note of deep disappointment and unfulfilled longings, with only the faint hope of better days ahead.

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

Luke 1:5 NIV

Both of them were **righteous** in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees **blamelessly**.

Luke 1:6 NIV

But they were **childless** because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Luke 1:7 NIV

Then an angel of the Lord
appeared to him, standing at the
right side of the altar of incense.

Luke 1:11 NIV

When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

Luke 1:12 NIV

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard**. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him **John**.

Luke 1:12 NIV

He will be a joy and delight to you,
and many will rejoice because of
his birth, for he will be great in the
sight of the Lord...

Luke 1:14-15 NIV

He will bring back **many** of the
people of Israel to the Lord their
God.

Luke 1:16 NIV

Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

Luke 1:66 NIV

I have **seen** and I **testify** that this is
God's Chosen One.”

John 1:34 NIV

When Jesus heard that John had
been put in prison...

Matthew 4:12 NIV

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he **withdrew** to **Galilee**.

Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the **lake**...

Matthew 4:12-13 NIV



547 Days

When John, who was in prison,
heard about the deeds of the
Messiah, he sent his disciples
to ask him “Are you the one who is
to come, or should we expect
someone else?”

Matthew 11:2-3 NIV

Circumstances have the power to
turn a conviction into a question.

Don't question in the dark what
you first believed in the light.

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

Matthew 11:4 NIV

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Matthew 11:5 NIV

Blessed is anyone who does not
stumble on account of **me.**”

Matthew 11:6 NIV

Trust God when you disagree
with Him, and trust God when
He disappoints you.

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen **anyone greater** than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11 NIV

Our hope isn't found in
explanations. Our hope is found in
the promises of God.

She will give birth to a son, and
you are to give him the name
Jesus, because he will save his
people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 NIV

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “**God with us**”).

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

God may be silent but
He will never be absent.

The Christmas story reminds
me that no matter what,
God is *for* me and God is *with* me.