



Logos Class – Christmas 2025 – *A New Dawn*

Class for Dec 14, 2025

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Dec 14, 2025 – Christmas Story 2025 - Pt 1*
- *Dec 21, 2025 – Christmas Story 2025 - Pt 2*
- *Dec 28, 2024 – Deeper Study III*
- *Jan 4, 2026 – New Study*
- *Jan 11, 2026 – New Study*
- *Jan 18, 2026 – New Study**

My plan is to continue both In-Person and Zoom in 2026

- * - *I have minor surgery on 1/14/26, and possibly I will need a sub on Jan 18th.*
- *I will also be teaching in the RBI, along with Scott Downing in 2026*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

-Israel is continuing to fight Hamas holdouts and Hezbollah in Lebanon who are trying to rebuild

-Flooding in Israel / Gaza and Lebanon from very heavy rains

US/World

- No significant movement on Ukraine-Russia War

- Escalations of Venezuelan situation, and enforcement of naval blockade situations with both Iran, and Venezuela

- Immigrant Issues continue to fester everywhere

- Earthquakes, Volcanic Activity, Major Flooding, Terrorism, and Cultural /Spiritual battles continue

Christmas 2025

- *How are we approaching this study this year?*
 - *2 parts –*
 - *Part one – A New Dawn – Luke 1 and Selected OT verses*
 - *Part two – The Christmas Story – Luke 2 with some prophecy*
- *Many ways to tell this story, and many POV give additional insight...Angels, Mary, Shepherds*
- *A few years ago, Pastor Jeff did a Christmas Lesson from the Shepherd's point of view, but this year, we will do one from the Prophet's POV.*
- *Our Christmas Performance shared a POV from the Local Bethlehem Residents/Innkeepers family and focused on the miracles of God's plan for a Redeemer coming true.*

We will focus on the story as told to God's people, by God's Prophets

Did you know...

- *There are over 300 prophecies in the OT and NT regarding the 2 Coming(s) of Jesus.*
- *Over 50 focused on His Birth...First Coming*
- *The rest are about Him and His Second Coming*

I will send out a table for your reference this week sometime.

I want to tell you a story before we begin



Picture this...

- *Graduated Pearl Necklace*
- *Pearls get larger as you move towards the center of the necklace*
- *The largest Pearl is at the bottom point*
- *Necklace ends rise up to the back of the Neck*
- *As many pearls before the largest, as after it.*
- *But what happens if you cut the string?*
- *This is a metaphor for how we study the Bible and teach the Bible in most churches today*

I heard a variation of this story the first time from a Scottish Pastor in Chicago, named Colin Smith, but his comparison was to the Book of John. I want to make a totally different application

Colin Smith, Senior Pastor – Orchard Evangelical Free Church - Chicago

Selected OT Readings – Ps 30:1-5

I will exalt you, LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths

and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

² LORD my God, I called to you for help,

and you healed me.

³ You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;

you spared me from going down to the pit.

⁴ Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;

praise his holy name.

⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,

but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may stay for the night,

but rejoicing comes in the morning

Even with darkness all around, Joy comes when the light appears in the morning time

Isaiah 9:2-3 *Morning is coming...*

*² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, **a light has dawned**.*

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

As we studied the Book of Revelation, we saw both darkness, and judgment, but also the Light of the Lord coming soon.

Isaiah 9:6-7 *A Familiar Verse to us*

⁶ *For **to us** a child is born, **to us** a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***

⁷ *Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be
no end.*

*He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

*The zeal **of the LORD Almighty** will accomplish this.*

A Wide Timeframe Prophecy

Malachi 4:5-6 *A Coming Prophet*

⁵ *“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.*

⁶ *He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”*

*Look forward for the day that I will send a prophet.
Last book in OT and the 400 years begins...*

Some perspective

The God of Israel had dealt with Israel's stubbornness and unfaithfulness for generations

- *Punished them through outside invaders*
- *Punished them through captivity*
- *Punished them now through silence and barrenness- 400 years of silence. Closing of the OT*
- *Malachi – the last book in the OT has many tones of despair and judgment **but ends with a ray of hope for the future***
- ***Before the Day of the Lord, I will send a prophet***
- ***The long-awaited Messiah will be coming with a prophet calling out in the wilderness***
- ***Isa 4:3***

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert. A highway for our God.

Between the Testaments

- God was not communicating with Israel, but God was active preparing for what was to come
- Gentile Empires Rose and Gentile Empires Fell.
- Medes and Persians – Daniel and his dreams, and his prophetic writings.
 - Wise Men and Chaldeans grew in stature and training from Daniel
 - Persians sent Jews home to rebuild city
- Greeks took over, and everyone learned Greek and had Hellenistic language, government, philosophy spread through out the Middle East
- Romans took over and created the Pax Romana, built roads, connected countries and towns, and travel and trade flourished
 - Groundwork for the time of Jesus was being laid in this period.

Luke Ch 1:1-5. *How it happened*

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that **have been fulfilled** among us,

² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to **write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,**

⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

⁵ 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 Ch 1:6-7

⁶ *Both of them were **righteous in the sight of God**, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees **blamelessly**.*

⁷ ***But** they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both **very old**. (stricken with age)*

This fact of barrenness was a long-simmering stain on their marriage and had been the focus of many prayers.

Luke Ch 1:8-12 ... *A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity*

⁸ *Once when Zechariah's **division** was **on duty** and he was serving as priest before God,*

⁹ *he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.*

There were about 20,000 priests in 24 divisions in Israel who were called 2 times per year to serve by division. Then lots would be selected to name the few priests each time for service.

Two times per year, all of the divisional priests would make the trip never knowing if they would be chosen.

*Ever since Zechariah was 30 years old, he had been going and had never been selected to serve. This was just another day...**but God***

So, Zechariah went in and was chosen to serve

*¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, **all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.***

*¹¹ **Then** an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the **right side** of the altar of incense.*

*¹² **When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.***

Luke 1:13-17

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight **to you**, and many will rejoice because of his birth,

¹⁵ **for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.** He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and **he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.**

¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, **in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”**

Luke 1:18-19

Unexpected Responses

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, ***“How can I be sure of this? I am an old man... and my wife is well along in years?”***

¹⁹ The angel said(declared) to him, ***“I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.”***

Zechariah asks for a sign...***and he gets one...***

Gabriel – What do we know?

- One of **only two** angels named in the Bible (other Angels are mentioned in the books of Tobit, and Enoch in the Apocrypha)
- **Angel of the Annunciation** (was sent by God to deliver important messages from Him)
- Appears to Daniel in Chapters 8 and 10 to explain vision
- Appeared to Zechariah in Luke Ch 1
- Appeared to Mary in Luke Ch 1
- Stands **in the Presence of God, a high honor of position**
- Resists the Devil along with Michael, the Angel who protects Israel...Spiritual Warfare
- Fearful Appearance but can come in the appearance of a man
- Comes to Daniel in “swift flight” which many interpret as wings, but the Bible never says angels have wings
- Comes to deliver God’s answers to specific prayers in God’s own timing
- Michael is the only named archangel in the Bible (Jude 1:9) but it means “Chief Angel” or “Chief Prince”.
- Some see Gabriel as also an Archangel based on Daniel Ch 10 mentioning multiple “Chief Princes”
- Archangels seem to be the leaders in Spiritual Warfare for God, and also higher in the Angel hierarchy, which is murky at best.
- Gabriel means “Mighty Man of God”
 - Gabar=mighty, El = God
- Has some delegated authority by God to go beyond just telling what God has sent him to do

Gabriel Images from artists



Luke 1:20-21

Not the Sign he wanted

²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.

Luke 1:22-25

...Prophecy coming true

***22** When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.*

***23** When his time of service was completed, he returned home.*

***24** After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.*

***25** “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”*

Final thoughts for today

God has been silent for 450 years, but preparing for the time to come

Dawn of an era of Redemption

- *SUN of Righteousness*
- *SON of Righteousness*

At a time of God's choosing

- *Chooses the parents of the Forerunner*
- *The miraculous birth of a son*
- *This Son is special in God's eyes*
- *Fulfillment of Prophecy in Malachi*
- *Beginning of a New Age of Redemption*

*In our dark times...remember...Joy comes in the Morning
Our Prayers will be answered in God's timing and in His will*

Next week

- *Pick up the Story Line and the traditional Christmas story.*
- *Add a few prophetic ideas of fulfillment*
- *Hopefully, it will prepare you with a deeper wonder and understanding of the True Meaning of this Celebration*

God Bless each of you