

GOD FINALLY SPEAKS AFTER A 400-YEAR PAUSE

Luke 1:5a, 11-13

In the days of **King Herod** of Judea, there was a priest by the name of **Zacharias**.

...

He [Zacharias] saw an angel of the **Lord** standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **Zacharias** was startled to see him and was terrified.

“Stop being afraid, **Zacharias**,” the angel told him. “**Your prayer** has been heard. **You** and your wife **Elizabeth** will have a son, and you are to name him ‘**John**’.”

Malachi 4:4-6

“Remember the instructions **I** gave my servant **Moses** at Horeb as laws and decrees for all Israel.

“**I** am going to send **you** the prophet **Elijah** before the LORD's **great** and **terrible day** comes. **He** will give the heart of the **fathers** to their children and the heart of the **children** to their fathers. Otherwise **I** will have to come and destroy the whole land with a curse.”

(1 Maccabees 4:46 implies there would no longer be prophets until One [the **Messiah**] would come, while 1 Maccabees 9:27 says that prophets had ceased in Israel, and 1 Maccabees 14:41 says that Simon was chosen to be high priest until a trustworthy prophet would arise, strongly suggesting the coming of someone like John the Baptizer, possibly even the coming/advent of Prophet **Messiah**.)

APPLICATION: **God** who *created* “time” (Genesis 1:1) and will *end* “time” (Revelation 10:6) is the same **God** who spoke **400-plus years** after Malachi—at the right “time” to Zacharias (cp. Galatians 4:4, 5).

He is also the **God** who knows how much “time” you will have here on this earth to come to repentance, come to know **Him** and **His Son** as the **REDEEMER** of your soul.

Use your time wisely: trusting and serving in pursuit of the great SALVATION won for You at Calvary, then you will hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

Color Code: 1. using **white** inside **black** (example: **Herod**) = an unbeliever; 2. using **blue** with **white** inside (examples: **I** & **Lord**) = **God the Father**, the **Holy One**, who created the **blue** sky; 3. using **red** with **white** (holiness) inside (example: **Messiah**) = **Jesus Christ**, who shed **His red blood** for us sinners; 4. using royal **blue** with **gold** inside (example: **Zacharias**) = **believers**, the “**royal/kingly priests**” (1 Peter 2:9), who will walk on the “street of **gold**” in heaven (Revelation 21:21c).