



# **How Do You Get Ready for Christmas?**

**(Luke 1:5-25)**

**Getting Ready for Christmas, No. 1**



## **Luke 1:5 (NIV)**

**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 1:6 (NIV)**

**Both of them were upright  
in the sight of God,  
observing all the Lord's commandments  
and regulations blamelessly.**

## **Luke 1:7 (NIV)**

**But they had no children,  
because Elizabeth was barren;  
and they were both well along in years.**

The veil or curtain that was separating  
The holy place and The most holy place

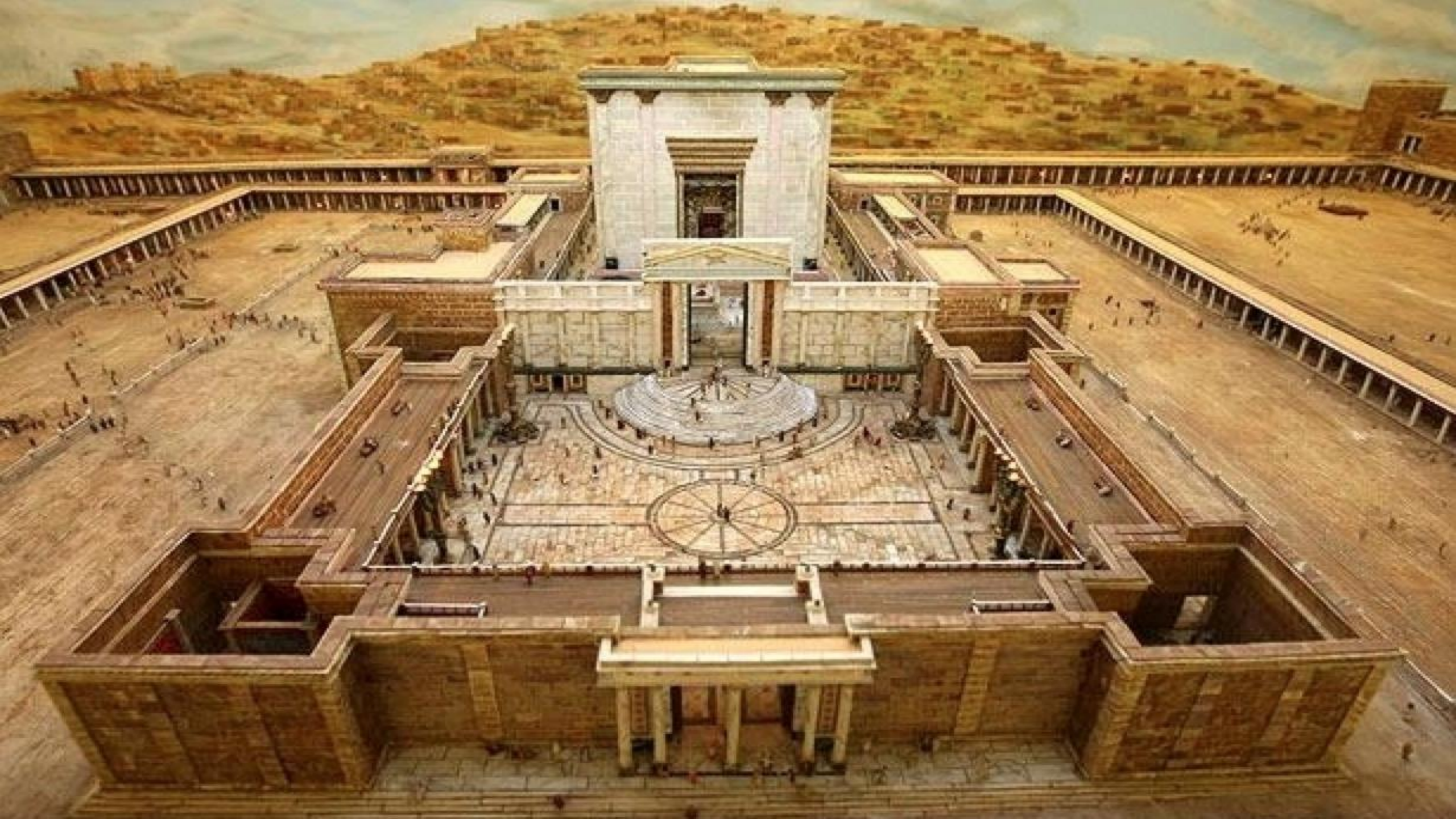
The Table  
of showbread

The Altar  
of Incense

The Menorah  
-Lampstand









**Luke 1:12 (NIV)**

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

## **Luke 1:13 (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 give him  
the name John.**

## **Luke 1:17 (NIV)**

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

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a Christmas tree branch. The branch is green and has several small, round, colorful lights (red, green, yellow) strung along it. A large, round, gold, glittery Christmas ornament hangs from the branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light green, suggesting a snowy or brightly lit environment.

**The way to get ready  
for Christmas  
is to turn your heart toward God.**

# **Luke 1:21 (NIV)**

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

# Turning Our Hearts Toward God

**1. Put worship at the top of your “to do” list.**

**2.**

**3.**



## **Luke 1:18 (NIV)**

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



# **Luke 1:19 (NIV)**

**The angel answered,  
“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.**

## **Luke 1:20 (NIV)**

**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 proper time.”**

## **Luke 1:13 (NIV)**

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“Do not be afraid, Zechariah;  
your prayer has been heard.  
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## **Luke 1:59-60 (NIV)**

**On the eighth day they came  
to circumcise the child,  
and they were going to name him after  
his father Zechariah,  
<sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said,  
“No! He is to be called John.”**

**Luke 1:61-62 (NIV)**

**They said to her,  
“There is no one among your relatives  
who has that name.”**

**<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs  
to his father,  
to find out what he would like  
to name the child.**

## **Luke 1:63 (NIV)**

**He asked for a writing tablet,  
and to everyone's astonishment  
he wrote,  
“His name is John.”**

# Turning Our Hearts Toward God

- 1. Put worship at the top of your “to do” list.**
- 2. Reopen the gift of God’s grace.**
- 3.**

**Grace:**

- **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**



# **Grace:**

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- **God knows every stupid mistake I've made.**

# **Grace:**

- **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**
- **God knows every stupid mistake I've made.**
- **Undeserved Favor**

**–Martin Luther**

**“The law says, ‘Do this,’  
and it is never done.**

**Grace says, ‘Believe in this,’  
and everything is already done.”**

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- 3. Ask God again for the “impossible.”**

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