



# Arrival

AN ADVENT SERIES ON  
WAITING + BELIEVING

## **Longing & Believing**

Luke 1:39-45

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## **Luke 1:5-6**

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

## **Luke 1:25**

"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."

## **Luke 1:39-45**

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

"God does not destroy desire; rather, he resurrects and renews it while using it to renew everything else, beginning with us."

- Curt Thompson, *The Soul of Desire*

Longing can move us to despair and desperation *or* it can move us to belief.

God's promises are guardrails that move us in our longing toward belief.

### [Some of] God's Promises to You:

- That what He has started in you He will never give up on.
  - **Philippians 1:6**  
Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
- That He will never leave you.
  - **Hebrews 13:5**  
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
- A life that is abundant and full.
  - **John 10:10**  
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- That nothing can separate you from His love.

- **Romans 8:38-39**  
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- The personal empowering presence of God by His Spirit.
  - **2 Timothy 1:7**  
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
- That He is trustworthy to keep His promises.
  - **Hebrews 10:23**  
Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
- That His grace is enough for you.
  - **2 Corinthians 12:9**  
But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

God's promises are not so much about getting what we want; they are far more about being met in our need.

### **Luke 1:40**

Blessed is she who believed God would fulfill His promises to her.