

“The Promise Of God”

The Shattering Of Silence!

- I. Luke’s preface and the introduction of John and Jesus (1:1—2:52)
 - A. Preface: Luke carefully builds on precedent (1:1-4)
 - B. Infancy narrative: forerunner and fulfillment (1:5–2:40)
 - I. Announcement to Zechariah (1:5–25)

“she kept herself in seclusion for five months” — That is, for the first half of her pregnancy. Although there are passages in biblical literature (2 Macc 7:27; 2 Esdras [4 Ezra] 4:40) which refer to a nine months pregnancy, a more common reckoning seems to have been one of ten (lunar) months (Wis 7:2–3), i.e., forty weeks, 280 days. Apparently Luke follows the latter, since Elizabeth is in her sixth month at the time of the annunciation to Mary (1:36), and then Mary stays with her three months (1:56) and can still leave before the baby is born.

Raymond E. Brown, *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke*, New Updated Edition. (New York; London: Yale University Press, 1993), 264.