



Dec. 9, 201 Luke 3: 1-6 & Baruch 5: 1-9

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

As I am composing this guide it is the 2nd year of the Trump presidency, and Kim Reynolds is governor of Iowa. Chuck Grassley is in the US senate from Iowa, Liz Mathis is in the Iowa senate and Bradley Hart is mayor of Cedar Rapids. The people of Iowa were being blitzed with political ads and personal appearances of candidates for the 2018 midterm elections. Each one lists their assessment of is needed fixing and what their ideas were that might make things better. Their campaign staffs are deep in setting up appointments. Their offices are recruiting people to make calls and house visits to prepare the ground for the one they hoped would be the next person to represent them and make things better. Their promises come fast and furious and if they get enough of our votes, life will be good for this “most important election of our lifetime”. This was what the composer of Luke’s gospel doing when he gives us all this

information. He lets us fill in the blanks on what needed fixing then, we need to do the same for now.

Luke 3:1-6

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar** - when **Pontius Pilate** was governor of **Judea**, **Herod tetrarch** of **Galilee**, his brother **Philip tetrarch** of **Iturea** and **Traconitis**, and **Lysanias tetrarch** of **Abilene**- 2 during the **high priesthood** of **Annas** and **Caiaphas**, the **word of God** came to **John** son of **Zechariah** in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the **Jordan**, **preaching a baptism** of **repentance** for the **forgiveness** of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of **Isaiah** the prophet: “A **voice** of one **calling** in the desert, ‘**Prepare** the way for the Lord, **make straight paths** for him. 5 Every **valley** shall be filled in, every **mountain** and **hill** made low. The **crooked** roads shall become **straight**, the **rough** ways **smooth**. 6 And **all mankind** will see God’s **salvation**.””

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Given the current state of affairs in the world, who is preaching hope for you?

PRAYER: Lord, we share the longing for your entering into our world that are new and more liberating. In this we share the same anxieties and hopes of those in John’s day. Our need for vision and renewed courage equals our ancestors of long ago. Help us to see that we need to turn around and look as our choices in new ways, so that we can cooperate with the graces you are eager to send to us. Amen.