



Luke 1:8-10

Christmas begins with *Incense!*

The story of Christmas is the greatest story of our year! Every story needs a setting, a background. From that background a good story-teller will launch the story with an impacting picture that is key to the unfolding of the story.

B.L.U.F. (Bottom Line Up Front) — Our cry for help launches a God of hope!

1. A Background of D

- 1) Political Darkness
- 2) Spiritual Darkness

This was a season of great political & spiritual darkness. But it was about to burst into a brilliant season of light and hope...Christmas!

2. A Story of H

Luke 1 & 2 introduces us to two miraculous births which are involved in two fulfilled promises from Malachi 3 & 4. *Hope is on the way!*

Yet the master story-teller doesn't want us to miss an important part of the launching of the story. The story of hope came after years of God's people continually crying out to God for help.

3. A Cry for H

...an *Altar of Incense*.

- 1) God Uses Ordinary People v. 5
- 2) You Must Walk with God v. 6
- 3) You Will Sometimes Have Struggles v. 7, 25
- 4) You Must Keep Serving God v. 7-8
- 5) Your Spiritual Life Must Be Seen in Prayer v. 13, 18, 10
Psalm 141:1-2; Revelation 8:3-4
⇒ Personal Prayer for His Family v. 13, 18
⇒ Corporate Prayer for God to Come v. 10
- 6) You Sometimes Question God v. 18
- 7) You Will Experience that God is Faithful v. 23-24a, 57



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Prayer launched the Christmas Story!