

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST: GOD IS GRACIOUS! **(Luke 1:57-66)**

- What are some necessary elements in God's design for your spiritual growth?
- How was this true in Mary and Elizabeth's life?

I. THE ANGELIC PREDICTION AND UNBELIEVING REACTION TO THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (1:5-25)

II. THE ANGELIC PREDICTION AND BELIEVING RESPONSE TO THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST (1:26-56)

III. THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AS PREDICTED (1:57- 80)

A. The PREDICTIONS regarding JOHN'S BIRTH were FULFILLED. (1:57-66)

1. FULFILLMENT #1: Elizabeth gave birth to a _____ as predicted in _____. (1:57)

- What was amazing about this?

2. FULFILLMENT #2: Her neighbors and relatives _____ at this birth as predicted in _____. (1:58)

- What did they recognize in all this?

3. FULFILLMENT #3: The male child is called _____ as predicted in _____. (1:59-63)

- What does "John" mean?

4. FULFILLMENT #4: Zacharias finally is able to _____ as predicted in _____. (1:64-66)

- If these predictions are true, what can we expect about the other predictions about John the Baptist?
- What is one of the strongest evidences for the divine inspirations of the Bible?
- When Zacharias is able to speak, what does he immediately do? (1:64)
- How did the people who lived around them react to all this? (1:65)
- Do react in fear or respond in faith to the Word of God?

B. The PROPHECIES of ZACHARIAS Surrounding JOHN THE BAPTIST. (1:67-79)

1. *With the birth of John the Baptist, Zacharias knew that _____ would provide the _____ to _____ who would ultimately provide for them the _____ they had long waited for and had been predicted in the _____.* (1:67-75)

- How was Zacharias able to predict this?
- What did Zacharias prophesy? **Luke 1:68-75**

"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,

⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,

⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who *have been* since the world began,

⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us,

⁷² To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant,

⁷³ The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,

Might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

- What can you learn from this?

2. *With the birth of John the Baptist, Zacharias predicted*

- his _____ [the prophet of the Highest],
- his _____ [you will go before the face of the Lord to _____ His ways],
- his _____ [To give knowledge of _____ to His _____],
- its _____ [by the _____ of sins],
- its _____ [through the _____ of our God], because the _____ from on high [has _____ us],
- its _____ [To give _____ to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of _____.]"

- So what then happened to John the Baptist? (1:80)

- What can you learn from all this?