

# John the Baptist's Greatness

Luke 1:15-17

- 1) John (Gr. *Yohanan*): "God has been gracious"
- 2) Great in God's sight, not necessarily man's (14-15; cf. Matt. 11:11)
- 3) Set apart for God's service (15; cf. Num. 6)
  - a) The Messiah's forerunner (Isa. 40:3)
  - b) Spirit of Elijah (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6; Matt. 17:11-13)
  - c) Turn many back to God (16; cf. 3:3; Matt. 3:2)
- 4) Observations & applications
  - a) Spiritual greatness entails worldly sacrifices
    - i) Being scorned by the world
    - ii) Entails great humility (Matt 11:11)
    - iii) Worldly pleasures are often shunned
    - iv) Filled w/ the Spirit, dwelling upon Christ's words
    - v) Depriving oneself of certain rights
  - b) God knows & elects before birth (cf. Jer. 1:5)
  - c) John proves Jesus is the Messiah (Isa 40:3; Mal 3:1; 4:5-6)
  - d) Elijah-like prophets are distinct from the rest
    - i) They parrot God's words
    - ii) They point to Christ
    - iii) They call people to *repent!*
    - iv) They seek no glory but humble themselves