

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S BIRTH FORETOLD

(Luke 1:5-25)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The PREFACE to the Gospel of Luke (1:1-4)

B. The PREDICTION by Gabriel of John the Baptist's birth (1:5-25)

1. John's father Zacharias was a _____, and his mother Elizabeth was a descendant of _____ . (v. 5)

* What is significant about the etymology of their names?

2. Elizabeth's childless conditions was _____ due to her or her husband's personal sin; but rather both were declared _____ and were living for the Lord. (vv. 6-7)

* How were sinners declared "righteous before God in the OT"? (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:1-8)

3. The priests cast lots to see who would be _____ to stand at the altar of incense (next to the holy of holies); but the Lord _____ had the lot fall to Zacharias. (vv. 8-10)

* Unfortunately what can be said about the temple during this time period?

4. Luke's first mention of an _____ materialized at Zacharias' side while he was praying at the altar of incense, and understandably he was _____. (vv. 11-12)

* From v. 13 do we have to guess what he was praying for?

5. “_____” would replace _____ in Zacharias’ heart, and spread to his wife, and then to all Israel; this child would be great. (vv. 14-15)

* Question: If the child in Elizabeth’s womb was just a mass of “human tissue” (a fetus) how or why would “it” be filled with the Holy Spirit?

6. John the Baptist would be the fulfillment of _____, he would be the forerunner of the Messiah, and he would help bring Israelites _____ to the Lord. (vv. 16-17; cf., Mal. 4:5-6)

7. When Zacharias expressed his doubts, Gabriel gave him a sign of muteness, which accomplished two things (vv. 18-22)...

a. It heightened the _____ of what God was about to do in Israel.

b. It _____ Gabriel’s revelation from the people until the appointed time.

* What can we learn from Zacharias’ doubt?

* Who alone can direct and predict the future?

8. Gabriel’s announcement _____ Elizabeth’s pregnancy; and so as always God kept His promises. (vv. 23-25)

* What can you personally apply from this passage?