

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Luke 1:57-80)

I. INTRODUCTION

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

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

IV. The PROPHECY by Gabriel of Jesus Christ's birth (1:26-38)

V. Mary PURPOSES to VISIT Elizabeth (1:39-56)

VI. The PREDICTIONS regarding John's birth are finally FULFILLED (1:57-80)

A. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS: Elizabeth gives birth to a son whom they name John (1:57-66)

1. As prophesied, despite Elizabeth's elderly age she gave birth to a healthy son and her neighbors and relatives shared in her _____ and God's great _____ towards her. (vv. 57-58)

2. As faithful Jews mindful of the Law, Zacharias and Elizabeth were vigilant to _____ John _____ days after his birth. (v. 59a, cf. Gen. 17:9-14; Lev. 12:3; Luke 2:21).

3. Despite of the opposition from well-intentioned friends and family, both Elizabeth and Zacharias _____ followed Gabriel's earlier instructions regarding John's _____. (vv. 59b-63)

* What does this tell us about just "going with the flow" and ignoring God's Word?

* How did God reward Zacharias' obedience? (v. 64a)

* How did Zacharias respond to God's grace? (v. 64b)

* Are you like their neighbors? Do you typical react in fear or respond by faith?

B. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS: Zacharias praises the Lord for the Messiah and John (1:67-80)

1. The Holy Spirit _____ Zacharias and _____ him to prophecy concerning the coming Messiah and the significant role his son would play in Israel's salvation. (v. 67)

* What does this tell us about our failures and how they can be used of the Lord?

2. Zacharias first praised God for redeeming His people Israel; and this would be done both _____ and _____ through the Messiah who would come through the Davidic line. (vv. 68-69, cf. 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Jer. 23:5; 33:15-16)

3. The OT prophets repeatedly prophesied of the Messiah's _____ of His people and His political _____ over the nations. (vv. 70-71)

4. There are some key words in verses 72-75 that need to be underscored in your Bible...

- a. *"And to remember His holy _____... (v. 72)*

- b. *The _____ which He swore to our father Abraham (v. 73)*

- c. *...Might serve Him without _____ (v. 74)*

- d. *In _____ and _____ before Him all the days of our life." (v. 75)*

5. Verses 76-79 focus on John and his ministry as the forerunner of the Messiah-- *For you will go _____ the face of the Lord to _____ His ways (v. 76);* and he would do this by preaching salvation. (Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1; Luke 3:3; Acts 10:34-39)

* How can you personally apply this truth today?