

## The Birth of Messiah's Forerunner is Foretold

Luke 1:1-25

December 4, 2022

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**The birth of the Messiah's Forerunner was also divinely miraculous.**

**I. The physician, Luke, was a careful historian recording real events. (v. 1-4)**

**II. Being right with God is no guarantee of earthly blessings. (v. 5-7)**

**III. Zechariah was chosen by God to serve in a special capacity. (v. 8-10)**

**IV. The appearance of an angel is a fearful event. (v. 11-13a)**

While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. (Daniel 8:15-17)

**V. The angel tells Zechariah that God will miraculously enable Elizabeth to conceive a important child. (v. 13b)**

**A. His birth and ministry would bring joy to his parents and many in Israel. (v. 14b)**

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare

a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy

the shroud that enfolds all peoples,

the sheet that covers all nations;

he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears

from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace

from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;

we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;  
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.” (Isaiah 25:6-9)

**B. He would be a unique and important figure in God’s plans. (v. 15a)**

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. (Mark1:4-6)

**C. He would permanently abstain from alcohol. (v. 15b)**

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” (Judges 13:1-5)

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit... (Ephesians 5:18)

**D. He would be under the influence of the Holy Spirit from the womb. (v. 15c)**

Before I was born the LORD called me;  
from my mother’s womb he has spoken my name. (Isaiah 49:1)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,  
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb... (Luke 1:41a)

**E. His life mission would be to prepare people to repent and receive the promised Messiah. (v. 16)**

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. (John 1:6-8)

...during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God’s salvation.”[Isaiah 40:3-5]

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. (Luke 3:2-9, 15-18)

**F. He would be the prophesied forerunner (herald, messenger) for the Messiah. (v. 17a)**

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. (Malachi 4:5)

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist... For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear. (Matthew 11:7-11a, 13-14)

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist. (Matthew 17:9-13)

### **G. John would prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. (v. 17c)**

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. (Malachi 3:1)

He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents... (Malachi 4:6)

Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”

They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

John’s Disciples Follow Jesus (John 1:19-34)

### **VI. Zechariah’s skepticism resulted in a mild rebuke. (v. 18-22)**

The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

“““The LORD bless you

and keep you;

the LORD make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

the LORD turn his face toward you

and give you peace.”” (Numbers 6:22-26)

**VII. God delivered precisely on His promises. (v. 23-25)**