

## PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

### *Luke 1:13-17*

God called John the Baptist to a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ ; he was the forerunner for Jesus the Messiah  
The word in the NT normally translated “angel” can also be translated \_\_\_\_\_

#### I. THE PRAYER FOR THE FORERUNNER

##### A. What prayer?

- 1) Some believe it was the prayer of Zachariah while ministering in the temple for a \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) It was traditional for priests to pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel while ministering in the temple
- 3) Perhaps Zachariah prayed for \_\_\_\_\_ while he ministered in the temple and God answered

##### B. The promise of a son to Zachariah was also an answer to the prayer for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel

- 1) God often weaves the answers to our personal prayers into His eternal \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The fact that something is part of God’s plan should not keep us from \_\_\_\_\_ for it

#### II. THE BIRTH OF THE FORERUNNER

##### A. When the Lord names a person it is a signal that he/she will have significance in God’s \_\_\_\_\_

##### B. Though advanced in years, Zachariah and Elizabeth experienced the \_\_\_\_\_ of a child

##### C. Gabriel prophesied that “many” not \_\_\_\_\_ , in Israel would rejoice at the birth of John the Baptist

- 1) This prophecy was fulfilled when crowds flocked to hear his message and many \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews refused to heed John’s preaching and Herod imprisoned him

#### III. THE CHARACTER OF THE FORERUNNER

##### A. “He will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the Lord”

- 1) In our culture the word “great” has been devalued: it is applied to \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) In this passage the word is qualified—“in the sight of the Lord”—and it applies to very \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parents need to teach children that God has a different idea of greatness, a different kind of \_\_\_\_\_*
- 3) Jesus Himself honored John for this kind of greatness, calling him the greatest of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Greatness in the sight of the Lord is connected with \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ and His kingdom
  - b) The world has many awards for those it honors as great: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Believers must learn to look for those that God considers great and \_\_\_\_\_ them like Jesus

##### B. “He will also be filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ “

- 1) Before his birth God treated John as a \_\_\_\_\_ not just a blob of protoplasm
- 2) While in the womb John recognized and leapt for joy in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ in the womb!  
*Obviously God can work in the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ at an early age and use them for His purposes*
- 3) John’s being filled with the Spirit in the womb is linked with his not drinking \_\_\_\_\_ from birth

#### IV. THE MINISTRY OF THE FORERUNNER

##### A. A ministry of calling Israel to \_\_\_\_\_

##### B. A ministry in the spirit and power of \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Gabriel alludes to the final prophecy of the OT: Malachi 4:5-6 promises the return of \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Himself verifies that Malachi is referring to John by quoting Malachi 3:1 in Luke 7:27