

Birth of John **Luke 1:57-80**

I. His Birth Caused a Stir – Lk. 1:57-66

1. Time came for Elizabeth to give birth – 57
Angel's promise came to pass, a son was born
2. There was great joy among the neighbors – 58
Neighbors & relatives heard of God's blessing
He had great mercy on barren Elizabeth & they rejoiced
3. On eighth day of John's life they came to circumcise him – 59
This meant giving him a name
Those gathered would have called him Zechariah after his father
But Elizabeth answered – No, he shall be called John – 60
They said, None of your relatives is called by this name – 61
4. They turned to his father, what did he want – 62-63
They made signs to his father
He asked for a writing tablet & wrote
His name is John, leaving those wondering – 63
5. Immediately his mouth was opened – 64
His tongue was loosed & he spoke, Blessing God
Fear came upon all of the neighbors – 65
All this was talked about through the hill country of Judea
6. All who heard them laid them up in their hearts– 66
Saying, what will this child be
for the hand of the Lord is with him

II. His Father Prophesied – Lk. 1:67-80

1. Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke – 67
2. He blessed the Lord God of Israel – 68-69
"For He has visited and redeemed His people"
"And has raised up a horn of salvation for us"
"In the house of His servant David"
This blessing is announced by John
but it is fulfilled by God's Son, Jesus
It is Jesus who is of the line of David
John was in the line of Levi – the Priest
3. God's prophets spoke of victory for Israel–70-71
God would fight for His people and deliver them from enemies
He would deliver from the hand of all who hate Israel
4. This commitment is bound by His covenants – 72-73
"To show the mercy promised to our fathers"
"The oath He swore to our father Abraham"
"That we would be delivered from the hand of our enemies"
5. "So that we might serve Him without fear" – 74-75
"In holiness and righteousness before Him, all our days"
God has promised those who serve Him to be Under His care

6. His prophetic words now speak to his son, John–76-79
"And you child, will be called the prophet of the Most High"
"For you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways"
"To give knowledge of salvation to His people"
"in the forgiveness of their sins"
"Because of the tender mercy of our God"
"Whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high"
"To give light to those who sit in darkness"
"And in the shadow of death"
"To guide our feet into the way of peace"
7. What a challenge from John's father
And what a blessing to his father as he lived it out – 80
"The child grew and became strong in spirit"
"He was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel"

III. Fulfillment of Zechariah's Prophecy – Jn. 1:1-34

1. Apostle John introduces Jesus to us – 1:1-5
Jesus is the Creator & He is the light of the world
2. God introduced His Son by witness of John the Baptist – 1:6-8
This John was not the light but sent to witness to the light (Jesus)
3. This true light was rejected by the world – 9-10
He was even rejected by His own people (Jews) – 11
But to those who did receive Him - He was the light – 12-13
And this light brought them into God's family
Jesus became a man to reveal light of God's grace & truth – 14
4. John came to bear witness to this light (Jesus) – 15
John says, "He came after me but is truly before me" – 16-18
He came to reveal God to us & to unveil God's grace
5. John tried to explain this to Jewish leaders – 19-23
He was not the Christ (Messiah), Elijah or The Prophet
He was just a voice crying in the wilderness
"Prepare the way of the Lord" as Isaiah said
They ask, why then are you baptizing? – 24-28
"I baptize with water" signifying you need to be clean
One coming after me, I am not worthy to untie His sandal
6. Next day He saw Jesus, declaring – 29
"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"
John said, this is He of whom I have spoken
God gave John a sign to prove He is The Christ – 30-34
When he baptized Jesus a dove would remain on Him
This represented the Holy Spirit proving Jesus is the Son of God
God gave John this as a sign - 33

