

The Birth Of John The Baptist

Luke 1:5-25,57-66

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 6 Lesson 1

Supplemental Texts

Isa 40:3-5; Mal 3:1; 4:5

Focus Verse

“And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.” – Luke 1:62,63

Introduction

The coming and role of John the Baptist had been foretold by the Old Testament prophets. Three Old Testament prophecies were declared and fulfilled concerning John the Baptist. In 700 BC, prophet Isaiah prophesied regarding John in Isa 40:3-5, and the fulfillment was given in Matt 3:1-3; Mark 1:4; Luke 1:76,77; John 1:22,23. Prophet Malachi, in 430 BC, prophesied of John in Mal 3:1; 4:5, and the fulfillment was given in Matt 11:7,10,13,14; Luke 1:17.

Deeper Look

Zacharias And Elisabeth – Luke 1:5-25

Zacharias was a priest, who was married to Elisabeth, who was also from a priestly family. Both of them had no child and were very old. One day, it was his turn to burn the incense in the temple before God, while the people offered prayers outside. Suddenly, an angel from the Lord, whose name was Gabriel, (v. 19) appeared unto him. The angel said: Fear not, Zacharias! God has answered your prayers, and your wife will have a son, and you must call him John. Zacharias doubted the certainty of the angel’s message (and wanted a sign) because he and his wife were old. The angel gave a sign but not the one expected or convenient for Zacharias. Thereafter, his wife became pregnant as angel Gabriel had said. How should you deal with doubts and fear that come between your prayers and God? Remember, our God is able, and He is faithful!

The Birth Of John – Luke 1:57-66

When the nine months were complete, Elisabeth gave birth to a son according to the angel. All friends and relatives rejoiced with her seeing that God has removed her barrenness. He has never forgotten any of His children; you are on God’s mind. On the eighth day, they called the child Zacharias, but his mother said he would be called John. It seemed that Zacharias had told his wife what the name of their son should be. They asked Zacharias by signs, and because he was deaf and dumb, he demanded for a writing tablet, upon which he wrote “His name is John.” Thus, he fully obeyed the angel of God, and suddenly he started speaking and praising God.

Questions

1. What tribe(s) in Israel did Zacharias and Elisabeth belong to? How does the bible describe Zacharias and his wife Elisabeth?
2. Why was Zacharias troubled and fearful when he sighted the angel of the Lord? What better antidote than what was given him could ease his fright? Think about a time you were fearful. How did your fear vanish?
3. What would enable John's ministry to accomplish great things stated by angel Gabriel? John truly had God-given purpose before his birth. What is your purpose in life? How can you effectively fulfil your purpose?
4. What did Zacharias' question to angel Gabriel imply? Why did Zacharias refer to his and his wife's ages in his response to the angel? What did the angel's response to Zacharias imply? How can you avoid Zacharias' mistake?
5. When Elisabeth conceived, she hid herself for five months. How would this event affect her life? How would you have handled this situation if you were Elisabeth?
6. How was the birth of John evidence of God's mercy to Elisabeth and Zacharias even when their prayer had been delayed for many years?
7. What is commendable about Zacharias during the naming of the child? What miraculous event took place in the process?


Personal Meditation

When you pray, be rest assured that God hears you. In Isa 65:24 God says, “And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” We must understand that if our answer has not come, it does not necessarily mean denial. This is the case with Zacharias and Elisabeth. They asked God for a child for many years, but none was given to them. It seemed as though God did not hear their prayers until a certain day when He sent His angel Gabriel to Zacharias to tell him that his prayer had been heard and would shortly be answered. What a surprising news that Elisabeth would bear a son!

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). What He has done for one, He is able to do for another. Your part is to bring your requests to God, and God’s part is to grant your requests, if in line with His will. Jesus emphatically stated in John 16:24 that “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” It is sure that you will have whole joy as the Lord answers your prayer. Pray and none of your prayers will go unheard.

DAILY STUDY

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| Monday | Luke 1:5-10 |
| Tuesday | Luke 1:11-14 |
| Wednesday | Luke 1:15-18 |
| Thursday | Luke 1:19-23 |
| Friday | Luke 1:24,25,57,58 |
| Saturday | Luke 1:59-66 |



Faith Portal Church

McKinney, TX

www.faithportal.org | info@faithportal.org | (972) 877-1304