

The Birth of John the Baptist

December 20, 2009 - Kiahk 11, 1726 AM

Objective

- To show how St. John the Baptist prepared the way of the coming of the Lord.

Memory Verse

- "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3:4)



Zacharias and Elizabeth

- During the reign of king Herod, the king of Judea, there was a priest named **Zachariah**
- His wife's name was **Elizabeth**
- They were both righteous before God, obeying all of God's commandments.
- But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren and they were both really old.
- **They prayed** to the Lord that he would give them a child.



Raising Incense

- One time when Zachariah was praying to God and raising incense on the altar, an angel appeared to him.
- The **angel** was standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
- When Zachariah saw him, he was troubled and he was afraid.



Archangel Gabriel

- The angel said to him: " Do not be afraid, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John."
 - John = the compassion of the Lord
- " And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice in his birth."
- "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink."
- " He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb"
- "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."



Zachariah did not believe

- Zachariah said to the angel: "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."
- The angel said to him: "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings, But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Zachariah was speechless

- The people outside the temple wondered why Zachariah was taking so long.
- He came out and tried to talk to them but he had no speech and so they thought that he must have seen a vision.
- So Elizabeth became pregnant with John and she hid herself for 5 months.

St. Elizabeth gives birth to a boy

- It finally came time for St. Elizabeth to give birth to St. John.
- Her delivery was easy because the Lord had mercy on her.
- It was time to name the child on the **8th day** and they were going to name him as his father, Zachariah
- His mother answered as said, **"No, he shall be called John."**



They called him **JOHN**

- But they said to her:
“**There is no one in your family who is called by this name**”
- So they made signs to Zacharias asking him what his name should be.
- He took a **writing tablet** and wrote:
 - “**His name is John.**”
- As soon as he wrote that, his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, **praising God.**



St. John makes straight the way of the Lord

- All were amazed and fear came on all who dwelt around them.
- Everyone wondered in their hearts, saying **"What kind of child will this be?"**
- The hand of the Lord was with St. John.



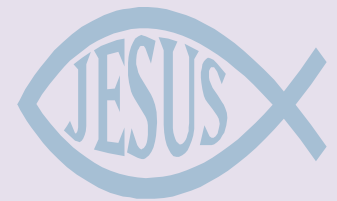
St. John

- This is he of whom it is written by Malachi the prophet:
 - “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.” (Luke 7:27)



Pop Quiz

1. What are the names of the priest and his wife?
 - Zachariah and Elizabeth
2. What did they pray for?
 - That they can have a child
3. What did the angel say to Zachariah?
 - The lord has heard your prayers and you will have a son and name him John
4. Why did Zachariah not believe?
 - Because him and his wife were very old
5. How could Zachariah tell his wife about the good news?
 - He wrote it on a tablet



Conclusion

- Our Lord always hears our prayers, and will answer us even after a long time.
- We may even forget about it but God does not forget our prayers.
- No could be the answer to our request which we must accept and by thankful for.

Archangels

- Michael
- Gabriel
- Raphael
- Suriel
- Sedakiel
- Sarathiel
- Ananiel

