

Jesus--Luke 1:1-38

Birth Announcements of John and Jesus

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. The temple priesthood was organized into 24 divisions, with each division serving twice a year for one week (1 Chr 24:4-19). Abijah's was the 8th division (1 Chr 24:10). [*MacArthur's Study Bible*, p. 1509].
2. Prophecies about John... Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 4:5-6.
3. John fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah (Matthew 3:4; Mark 1:6; Luke 7:24-27).
4. Jesus honored John (Mt 11:11).
5. Nazareth (v. 26) was an obscure place of lowly reputation (John 1:46).

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Christ, period #14 of 15.**

III. Summary.

Luke wrote only two books of the New Testament (Luke/Acts), but the two books actually make Luke the writer of more of the New Testament than any other writer. In the preface (1-4) Theophilus is addressed. Luke begins his account of the life of Christ by introducing the parents of the forerunner of Jesus. John's parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth, were both righteous before God, but they were childless.

While Zacharias was serving in the temple, an angel appeared to him and announced that Elizabeth would bear him a son to be named John. Details about the future life of this son are given to Zacharias. Zacharias questions the angel about the certainty of this announcement and is made to become speechless temporarily, as a sign.

Zacharias completed his temple service and returned home and Elizabeth did conceive a child. Six months later the announcement was made by Gabriel to Mary that she, too, would bear a son. This birth would be very different in that it would be a virgin birth. Mary's son would be named Jesus and would reign on David's throne over an eternal kingdom. Mary is told about her relative Mary's conception. Mary humbly responds to the announcement, "Let it be to me according to your word."

IV. Outline.

1. Luke's preface to his account of the life of Christ (1-4).
2. Introduction to Zacharias and Elizabeth (5-7).
3. As Zacharias served in the temple an angel appeared to him (8-12).
4. The angel announces the coming of a son (13-17).
5. Zacharias questions the announcement (18).
6. Gabriel causes Zacharias to be unable to speak till the birth (19-20).
7. When he came out of the temple, he could not speak but motioned to the people that he had seen a vision (21-22).
8. Elizabeth did conceive and hid herself five months (23-25).
9. Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary (26-28).
10. Jesus' rule and kingdom is described to Mary (29-33).
11. Mary wonders how this can be (34).

12. The explanation is that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her in the birth of the Son of God (35-37).
13. Mary humbly accepts the honor of bearing Jesus (38).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Mary considered herself to be the maidservant of the Lord.
02. _____ Elizabeth was of the tribe of Levi.
03. _____ It was in her old age that Elizabeth conceived a son.
04. _____ The events of this chapter find Zacharias in the temple longer than usual.
05. _____ John is identified as a PERSON even from his mother's womb.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ The particular service in the temple that Zacharias was to perform involved: (a) changing the shewbread; (b) burning incense; (c) it is not revealed.
07. _____ Zacharias and Elizabeth lived in the days of: (a) Nebuchadnezzar; (b) Alexander the Great; (c) Herod.
08. _____ John would drink neither wine nor: (a) water; (b) strong drink; (c) anything unclean.
09. _____ Zacharias was told that the words Gabriel spoke to him would be fulfilled: (a) within one year; (b) some time in the next 10 years; (c) in their own time.
10. _____ Mary was addressed by the angel Gabriel as: (a) highly favored one; (b) mother of God; (c) Mary; (d) a & c; (e) b & c.

Fill in the Blanks

11. 1 Chronicles ____:10 "The seventh to Hakkoz, the _____ to Abijah."
12. Malachi 4:____ "Behold, I will send you _____ the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."
13. Luke 7:____ "This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my _____ before thy face, which shall _____ thy way before thee."
14. "Then _____ said, "How can this be, since I do not _____ a man?"
15. "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of _____, to _____ the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the _____ to the wisdom of the just, to make _____ a people prepared for the Lord."

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be given on next week's handout

ANSWERS for Lesson 01-20... [01—True, 3; 02—True, 28; 03—True, 8; 04—False, 10; 05—True, 14; 06—Darius, 26; 07—Darius, 18-20; 08—Daniel, 10; 09—Daniel, 3; 10—Darius, 16; 11—39, Joseph's, Joseph; 12—20, Hannah, Samuel, asked; 13—three, day, 10; 14—shut, lions', mouths, 22; 15—Medes, Persians, changed, 15.

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. *...to write to you an orderly account...* (Luke 1:3). Luke's words here are addressed to Theophilus. We really know nothing about who this Theophilus is, but we can infer from the text that he was a Christian known by Luke. It seems from a careful reading of the book of Luke that he wrote primarily to the Greeks or non-Jews. He wrote to show mankind's need for a Savior and that Christ was Redeemer of the world. There is emphasis upon the HUMANITY of Christ. It has many details not given in the other three accounts of the life of Christ. Luke selected events and conversations that suited

- the purpose of providing an orderly account of the life of Christ. Of course, he did his writing through guidance of the Holy Spirit. For a summary of the basic approaches of the other three writers, please see lesson 01-21, pages 2 and 3.
2. *a certain priest of the division of Abijah* (Luke 1:5). This may seem to be a strange statement unless we are familiar with Old Testament Scripture. In the “Additional Scriptures” section above, we list the passage which explains the division of the priesthood. This helps to emphasize the point that there is a need to study from the Old Testament in order to understand many things mentioned in the New Testament.
 3. *And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless* (Luke 1:6). This passage helps to dispel an idea that many seem to have that it was not possible to “keep the Law of Moses.” Zacharias and Elizabeth both did keep the Law of Moses and they were blameless. Of course we recognize that no one kept the law perfectly and thus could cause God to be indebted to save them. However, provision was made under the Law of Moses for dealing with sin (in the form of animal sacrifices). There was no ACTUAL FORGIVENESS as part of the old covenant (cf., Jer 31:31-34). The forgiveness of all of those who were blameless under the law (like Zacharias and Elizabeth) came by the same means that our forgiveness is provided--through the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb 10:1-25). Under the old system there was an annual remembrance of the sins of the people; after Christ shed His blood at Calvary, there was the actual forgiveness of those who lived blameless lives under the old covenant and under patriarchy.
 4. *He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb* (Luke 1:15). Any honest person will have to recognize that this statement about John before he was even born proves that God considers the babe in the womb a PERSON and thus defeats the pro-abortion position.
 5. *... to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord* (Luke 1:17). This quotation from Malachi 4:6 helps us to see that John is the fulfillment of the Malachi prophecy. The message of John was: REPENT FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND (Mt 3:1-2). He was preparing the way for One that was to come after him (Mt 3:11). A good Bible definition of repentance can be had by comparing Matthew 12:41 and Jonah 3:10.
 6. *Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among the people* (Luke 1:25). Especially among the Jews, it was a REPROACH for a woman to be barren (v., 7; cf., the case of Hannah in 1 Sam 1). Each Jewish woman hoped to be the one to bear the Messiah. These words of Elizabeth are words of great celebration and joy.
 7. *Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!* (Luke 1:28). It is true that Mary was **highly favored** and **blessed** to be the one to bear Jesus, but it is not true that she is “the Mother of God,” and a mediatrix, through whom Christians should pray, as the Roman Catholics teach.
 8. *and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David* (Luke 1:32). The necessity of having two different genealogies is identified here. Jesus' lineage is traced LEGALLY through Joseph and his kingly forefathers (including Jechoniah) in Matthew 1:1-17; His blood lineage is traced through Mary (through another of David's sons, Nathan) in Luke 3:23-38. See lesson 01-21 under “Additional Scriptures” for a discussion of the significance of this as it relates to Jeremiah 22:30 (cf., Mt 1:12; Lk 3:31).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P O I U Y T A R E J E S U S E W Q L K J
 K J H G F F D L S A M N B V C X Z L K J
 J H G F D S A P T O I U Y T R E W W Q L
 K R E I G N J H G A F D S A M N B V C X
 Z P O I U Y T R E W R K J H G F M N T B
 K V C J O H N P L K I N C E N S E M H N
 I B V C X Z L K J H G F D S A P O I R Y
 N Y M T T R E W Q L K J H G F H D L O S
 G A M A N R B V C X Z P R A Y E R E N L
 D K J H R F O D S A P O I U Y A T I E R
 O E W Q R Y T U U J H G F D S R A R M N
 M B B V C X Z L B K J H G F D D S B A P
 O E I F A V O R U L T R E W S L K A J H
 G A F D S A J M N B E V C S M N B G V C
 X R Z L K J H O G F D D E S A P O I U Y
 T S O N E W P O Y I Y N T R T E E W L K
 L K J H G F D S A M D N B V C U X Z P O
 I U Y T R E W A S A D F G H J K R L M N
 B V C X L K J H L G F D S A P O U N Y T
 R E S A D F G G R E E T I N G H J K L N

[The words below are taken from the two appearances of Gabriel recorded in this reading. See if you can find them above.]

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| 01. altar | 02. incense |
| 03. Zacharias | 04. troubled |
| 05. prayer | 06. heard |
| 07. bear | 08. son |
| 09. John | 10. joy |
| 11. gladness | 12. turn |
| 13. Gabriel | 14. Mary |
| 15. greeting | 16. favor |
| 17. Jesus | 18. throne |
| 19. reign | 20. kingdom |