



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

God's Fulfilled Promise in John's Birth

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

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Luke 1:57-66 *Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. 58) When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. 59) So it was, on the eighth day, that they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. 60) His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." 61) But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." 62) So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. 63) And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. 64) Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. 65) Then fear came on all those who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. 66) And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him. (NKJV)*

"GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE, NOR A SON OF MAN THAT HE SHOULD REPENT. HAS HE SAID, AND WILL HE NOT DO? OR HAS HE SPOKEN, AND WILL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD?" NUMBERS 23:19

Did God keep His Word through Gabriel His messenger? Was unusual mercy shown to Elizabeth? Were those who had called her "barren" now rejoicing with her? How was this couple breaking the customs of their day? To what extent were they both emphatic about the name, John? What was the first thing Zacharias spoke after nine months of silence? Who caused the fear? Did it become local news? Is expectation throughout all the hill country around them enhanced?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MARCH 5: PASTOR JORDAN FANARA, LUKE 1:67-80 *THE PROPHECY OF THE PRIEST, ZACHARIAS*
- MARCH 12: PASTOR JORDAN FANARA, LUKE 2:1-7 *CHRIST THE MESSIAH IS BORN!*

When Gabriel came to Zacharias in the Temple, his first words to him were, "*Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard.*" This couple had prayed all their lives for a son, but now it seemed impossible. Elizabeth had been "barren" in her youth and all her life, and now it is her cruel nickname. But Gabriel had continued, "*and your wife Elizabeth will bear a son.*" Elizabeth, in contrast to her husband, believed that God had answered their prayers, and upon conception, she hid herself for their first six months to avoid the scorn, that had now become a lie. What she found to be astounding was that even after she was six months pregnant and clearly showing, these merciless neighbors still continually called her "Barren"! It seems they had chosen to be unmerciful until God proved His mercy in giving them a baby! The next words of Gabriel to Zacharias were, "*and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will 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. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, '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.*" This was Israel's final promise of "Elijah the prophet" who would come before their promised Messiah.

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

God's Fulfilled Promise in John's Birth

BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD. AND HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN ... MALACHI 4:5-6

I. MERCY MAGNIFIED

LUKE 1:57-58

There is an emphasis on God's fulfillment of his promise even in the relating of this account. Literally, "*to Elizabeth was fulfilled*" and God did exactly as He had promised and mercifully gave her a son in answer to their prayers. What is mysterious and unusual is the sudden reversal Elizabeth has in relation to her neighbors. Now that they realize that they can no longer call her "barren" because the baby boy is undeniable, and they literally "*heard the Lord had magnified His mercy with her*," which they knew was entirely true in that God had blessed her with this almost miraculous son in her old age. Suddenly there is a complete reversal in their relationship with Elizabeth. Rather than cruel criticism based on false accusations of harboring some secret sin, she is given overcoming favor with her accusers and they "*continually rejoiced with her*."

REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE AND WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP. ROMANS 12:15

II. VISITATION VERIFIED

LUKE 1:59-63

The only one who has not been mentioned yet in this passage is humbled Zacharias, still mute because of his unbelief. Now that his son has been born, did Zacharias wonder why he had not yet been given back his ability to speak? The last words he had heard Gabriel speak were, "*For 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*." Somewhat in parallel to our baby dedications, the law required that all

generations of Abraham be circumcised on the eighth day (Genesis 17:9-14, Lev. 12:3), to be included in the covenant. Thus, on the eighth day there would be a ceremony of circumcision, and as God gave Abraham his name when He instituted the circumcision, so the child would be given his official name. Evidently, since Israel's return from the captivity in Babylon, they had assumed the tradition from those around them to honor the father or grandfather by naming the oldest son after him. Thus, in typical Asian style, the neighbors and relatives unanimously called this new baby, Zacharias, in honor of his father. But Elizabeth, probably still recuperating in bed, indignantly objected, saying literally, "*No way! But instead he shall be called John*." But they argue, "*There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name*." Unwilling to believe Elizabeth, but willing to get between them, they make signs to Zacharias, expecting him to agree with them. When they supply him a tablet to write on, there is finality in his words, literally, "*John is his name*." As if to say, he has already been named and there is no room for argument. At this dogmatic response they "*all marveled*."

THEN THEY BELIEVED HIS WORDS; THEY SANG HIS PRAISE. PSALM 106:12

III. PRAISE PETRIFIED

LUKE 1:64-66

Zacharias had proven that he now believed all the words of Gabriel as he opposed all his friends and relatives, and in obedience to God, had named his son John. Those who marveled were suddenly petrified as silent Zacharias suddenly began to sing praise God for all His faithfulness to His Word. Precisely as the angel Gabriel had spoken, down to the detail of naming his son, all had been fulfilled! Their fear turned to wonder and anticipation all around as "*the hand of the Lord with him*," they asked, "*What kind of child will this be?*" Zacharias' mighty song of praise, composed over all the many long months of pregnancy, will be the subject of next week's study!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you suffer in unbelief, and maybe one day eternally, because you fail to take God at His Word?
- 2) Is your example and leadership leading others to rejoice in God's mercy or leading others away from Him?
- 3) Have you believed in Jesus Christ, received Him as your Lord & Savior and are you proving it by obedience to His Word?