

Luke 1:57-80 **Birth and Childhood of John the Baptist**

Birth and Circumcision of John the Baptist

57 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 came to circumcise the child; and 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 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.

Prophecy by Zacharias

67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, 71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Childhood of John the Baptist

80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Birth and Circumcision of John the Baptist

✚ In the fullness of time, Elizabeth brought forth a son according to the word of the angel Gabriel. [Luke 1:19-20, 57]

✧ When the friends and neighbors heard about it, they rejoiced with her, fulfilling the word of the angel Gabriel. [Luke 1:13-14, 58]

✚ According to the command of Yehowah, on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. [Genesis 17:9-13, Luke 1:59]

✧ At his circumcision, the child was named John at the surprise of the friends and relatives who thought he should be named after someone of his relatives. [Luke 1:59-63]

- ✚ After confirming in writing that the name was John, Zacharias' tongue was loosed and he spoke, praising God, again fulfilling the word of Gabriel. [Luke 1:20, 64]
- ✧ Fear came upon all who dwelt around them, as the news spread throughout the hill country of Judea. [Luke 1:65]
- ✧ The people who heard the news kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" [Luke 1:66]
- ✚ The hand of Yehowah was with John. [Luke 1:66]

Prophecy by Zacharias [Luke 1:67-79]

- ✚ Zacharias, John's father, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he prophesied saying:
 - ✧ Blessed is Yehowah Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel).
 - ✧ He has visited and redeemed His people.
 - ✧ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.
 - ✧ Just as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began.
 - ✧ That we should be saved from the hand of our enemies and of all that hate us.
 - ✧ To perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His Holy Covenant which He swore to our father Abraham.
 - ✧ To grant us freedom from the hand of our enemies, that we might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. [Luke 1:67-75]
- ✚ Then addressing the child, Zacharias said: [Luke 1:76-79]
 - ✧ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest.
 - ✧ To give **knowledge of salvation** to His people **By the remission of their sins**, through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us.
 - ✧ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.
 - ✧ This is all fulfilled in the Gospel of Messiah Jesus, and will be fully obvious when He comes to set up His Kingdom here on Earth.

Zacharias and Mary were both focused on deliverance from the physical armies of enemies that were continually oppressing the people and at the time of the birth of John the Baptist, that oppressing force was from Rome.

God was and is focused on the oppression of sin and Satan, the enemies of the soul.

Childhood of John the Baptist

- ✚ So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel. [Luke 1:80]
- ✚ The hand of Yehowah was with him. [Luke 1:66]