

Introduction: The reason for John coming. Mark 1:1-4 Says that John was a messenger sent before the Christ to prepare the people for His arrival. Also, Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me..."

John the Baptist fulfilled this verse of Scripture, Isaiah 40:3 " The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." See Matthew 3:3 as well.

After 400 years of prophetic silence, that silence was broken by God sending Gabriel to Zacharias [Luke 1:11,19] then Mary [Luke 1:26,27] and an unnamed angel to Joseph [Matt. 1:20]. The prophecy took up where God left off about the coming of the Messiah and His messenger. Luke's reason for writing his account Luke 1:1-4.

JOHN'S BIRTH ANNOUNCED, Luke 1:5-25

Lineage: Joseph was of the House of David, Matthew 1:5, 16 or of Judah. Mary was of the House of Levi of the House of Aaron because Zacharias and Elizabeth were and v. 36 says Mary was a relative of Elizabeth.

1. The priesthood was divided up into 24 divisions, of which Abijah was one, 12. See 1 Chronicles 24:1-19
2. All who are involved in a service from greeting to music, to counting the finances are acting out the assignment of the remainder of the sons of Levi. See I Chron. 24:20- 25 through Ch.27
3. Conduct of the Priest, a virgin of his own tribe, see Leviticus 21:13, 14.
4. Abijah was listed with the priests that returned from Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem. Nehemiah 12:1, 4. V. 8 the names of the Levites that lead the thanksgiving psalms.
5. V. 15 John will be great in the sight of God. To live as a Nazarite.
6. He will come in the spirit of Elijah to fulfill Malachi 4: 5, 6
7. V. 24 Elizabeth conceives.

VISIT OF THE TWO MOTHERS Luke 1:39-45, 56

1. John and his mother were filled with the Holy Spirit by hearing the greeting of Mary pregnant with Jesus.
2. Mary's song (the Magnificat) is taken from the song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
3. Mary returned home about three to three and a half months pregnant.

JOHN'S BIRTH vs. 57-80

1. Male babies were named on the eighth day, at which time they were circumcised.
2. Mother and father said his name is to be John.
3. Zacharias could now speak, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.
4. V.77 John would, through the Holy Spirit, give knowledge of salvation to God's people, the remission of sin.

Last word: John grew and became strong in spirit. Let us continue to grow and not plateau in our walk and continually become stronger in spirit and in His Spirit.