

John the [Elijah] Baptist

ZACHARIAS	ELIZABETH	JOHN	PREACHING & BAPTIZING	PRISON & BEHEADING	PROPHETIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While Zacharias was in the temple, Gabriel tells him that a son will come from his wife (Lk.1:5-15)¹ Zacharias questions (doubts) Gabriel about having a son. Gabriel tells him that he will not be able to speak (Lk.1:18-23)² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth was barren. She perceived that the Lord has removed that disgrace (Lk.1:7, 25) Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (Lk.1:41). Elizabeth becomes pregnant, and she kept herself secluded for 5 months. (Lk.1:24)³ John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit while still in Elizabeth's womb (Lk.1:15)⁴ Mary visits Elizabeth at a city of Judah (Lk.1:39). When Mary greets Elizabeth, John leaps in her womb (Lk.1:41, 44)⁵ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about 3 months (Lk.1:56). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John is born and circumcised on the eighth day (Lk.1:57-59). When Zacharias wrote that the son's name will be "John" (an act of faith), the Lord allowed him to speak (Lk.1:60-66)⁶ Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and blessed the Lord (Lk.1:67-79). John grew and became strong in spirit, and lived in the deserts until his public appearances to Israel (Lk.1:80)⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John baptizes in the Jordan river (Mt.3:6). John also baptized at Aenon near Salim "because there was much water there" (Jn.3:23). John preached in the wilderness of Judea (Mt.3:1; Mk.1:9-11). John preached a message of repentance (Mt.3:2,6,8, 11) saying "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt.3:2) The people confessed their sins (Mt.3:6). John called the Pharisees and Sadducees a "generation" of vipers (Mt.3:7). He told them that God is able to raise up children from stones unto Abraham (Mt.3:9).⁸ John said he should be baptized by Jesus (Mt.3:14). John baptizes Jesus, and sees the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descending like a dove upon Jesus (Mt.3:16). A voice from heaven is heard saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt.3:17; Lk.3:21-22). John did not recognize Jesus as the Christ until he saw the Holy Spirit descending as a dove, remain upon Him (Jn.1:31-34). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew narrates how John was beheaded (Mt. 14:3-12). The daughter of Herodias danced before Herod on his birthday (Mt.14:6). She pleased her, and he offered her what she wanted (Mt.14:7). Her mom (Herodias) asked for the head of John the Baptist (Mt.14:8).⁹ This was the 15th year of Tiberus Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judah. Also Herod was Tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was Tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis. Lysanias was Tetrarch of Abilene (Lk.3:1). This was during the priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas (Lk.3:2). Mt.11:2-10, John, in prison, sends two of his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the Expected one (Mt.11:23; Lk.7:18-39)¹⁰ Jesus tells John's disciples to tell John what they see and hear (Mt.11:4-5). Herod the Tetrarch heard of Jesus and believed he is John risen from the dead (Mt.4:1-2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus calls John the greatest of all born of a woman. Yet the least in the kingdom is greater than John (Mt.11:11). Mt.11:12-15¹¹ since John was born until then (the time Jesus is speaking), Jesus said the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it [kingdom] by force (Mt.11:12) Jesus said that "all the prophets and the Law" prophesied until John (Mt.11:13)¹² Jesus said "if they [Israelites] care to accept [prophets and the Law prophecy until John or John's message] then" John is Elijah, who was to come" (Mt.11:14)¹³ Jesus said, "he who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mt.11:15). John will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God (Lk.1:16). Jesus said John will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, quoting Malachi 4:6 (Lk.1:17). Jesus says John is the "messenger" of Malachi 3:1, and the one who "prepares the way" of Isaiah 40:3 (Mt.11:10). Zacharias applied Malachi 3:1 to John (Lk.1:76). John was sent from God to bear witness to the Light (i.e., Jesus). John was not that Light (Jn.1:6,8,15). The Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John if he was the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet (Jn.1:19-22). John said "no" to all these questions (Jn.1:20-22)¹⁴ John seems to quote Isaiah 40:3 calling himself "a voice". John said he merely baptizes with water, but the One coming after him is greater than he (Jn.1:25-28), Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit (Jn.1:33). John sees Jesus and says, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn.1:29).

QUESTIONS

¹What was Zacharias doing in the temple? • ²Why was Zacharias made unable to speak? • ³Why did Elizabeth keep herself secluded for 5 months? • ⁴What does that mean for a baby in a womb while being filled with the Holy Spirit? • ⁵What does this mean? or Why did this happen? • ⁶Why was Zacharias allowed to speak again? • ⁷What does "strong in spirit" mean? • ⁸What does it mean that God is able to raise up children unto Abraham from stones? • ⁹Why did Herodias ask for the head of John the Baptist? • ¹⁰Why did John ask Jesus if He is the expected one since he already acknowledged Jesus (see Mt.3:14; Jn.1:29,31-34)? • ¹¹What does it mean that the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and that violent men take it by force? • ¹²What does this mean? • ¹³What is it that they must accept?; Does Israel's accepting make John the fulfillment of the coming Elijah? • ¹⁴Is it possible for John to be the fulfillment of the coming Elijah and not know it?

QUESTIONS