

## GOD CHOSE THE NAME OF JOHN

Luke 1:57- 80a

Learn: And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins. Luke 1:76, 77

Now Elisabeth's time to be delivered came; and she brought forth a son. Her neighbors and her cousins heard of the Lord's great mercy to her in that he gave her a son in her old age, and they celebrated with her.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day after the baby boy's birth they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias after his father. But Elisabeth said, "O no, he is to be called John."

Then the people said, "Why do you want to call him John? There is no one in your family by that name?" They made signs to Zacharias, who had not been able to speak since the announcement of the angel to him about the coming birth of the child, asking what he wanted to name his son.

Zacharias asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." And everyone was amazed.

Then immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, and praised God. Fear fell on all the people that lived around them, and the news of what had happened was spread around all the hill country of Judea.

Then Zacharias the father of baby John was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people. And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began. He kept his oath which he swore to our father Abraham."

"And thou child, shalt be called the prophet of the highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins. Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

And the child grew, and became strong in spirit.

How amazing it must have been to see God work this way in the lives of Zacharias and Elisabeth, giving them the opportunity to be the parents of John, who would announce the Messiah to Israel. We see that God seeks those who love him and do what he commands, so they can see him work mighty miracles.

You know, that God of the time of Zacharias is the same God who we read about and grow to know through the Bible. He never changes and he is still in the process of allowing ordinary people to live amazing lives as they love and obey his word.