

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. With what attitude did John serve God?
2. What motivated John?
3. How was John the Baptist to prepare the Way for Christ?
4. How important was John's mission?
5. Can John's mission statement in verses 77-79 also be ours?

### SUMMARY:

In this lesson on the birth of John the Baptist we get an introduction to Christ. Although the birth of John was a miracle, and his life was very special in that God planned a very important mission for him, John's greatness is in his ministry, which was to proclaim Christ. <sup>[SoF:15]</sup> Of himself, John says: "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose." (Mark 1:7)

We must realize that for our lives to be purposeful and worthwhile, we need Christ to direct us. Many people have done great things in the world, but only what is done for the Lord will have eternal value.

### NOTES:

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<sup>[SoF:15]</sup> We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

October 22, 2017

Fourth Quarter

### BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

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**LESSON TEXT:** Luke 1:57-80

**LESSON SETTING:** In the city of Judaea where John the Baptist was born.

**TIME:** Approximately 5 B.C.

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- I. THE NAMING OF THE CHILD.** Luke 1:57-63
  - A. A Gift of God - Hebrews 2:4, 12-13
  - B. Promise Fulfilled (vs. 57) 1 Kings 8:56; 1 Corinthians 1:20
  - C. Named by Angel - Luke 1:13
- II. THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE.** Luke 1:64-66
  - A. Fear (vs. 65) Luke 7:16; Acts 5:11
  - B. Remembrance in Their Hearts (vs. 66) John 12:16; 2 Timothy 2:14
- III. THE PROPHECY OF ZACHARIAS.** Luke 1:67-80
  - A. Redemption (vs. 68) Psalm 130:7; Isaiah 43:1
  - B. Son of David (vs. 69) Isaiah 11:1, 10; 2 Timothy 2:8;
  - C. Forerunner (vs. 76) Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:3; 11:10
  - D. Knowledge of Salvation<sup>[SoF:15]</sup> (vs. 77) Matthew 3:11; John 17:3

***GOLDEN TEXT: FOR THOU SHALT GO BEFORE THE FACE OF THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAY.***  
Luke 1:76

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Luke 2:22-38

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Isaiah 35:1-10; 51:1-8

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ the Son of Man

**TOPIC:** THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

**INTRODUCTION:**

The prophecy concerning God's salvation of mankind dates back to the beginning of man's history. Immediately after sin entered into the world, God promised to the first parents a Redeemer. This theme is woven through the entire Old Testament. The prophets as well as other men of God spoke of the SALVATION for which they were looking and praying. In reference to Old Testament saints, the Apostle Peter says, "of which salvation the prophets have enquired, and searched diligently." (1 Peter 1:10)

It was obviously something that the Jewish nation was kept constantly aware of, namely, that the salvation of the Lord should come at any time. It was, however, not given to them to see the coming Redeemer.

In writing to the Hebrews, the Apostle records the mighty things accomplished by the faith of men of old, and concludes by saying "and these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise." (Hebrews 11:39)

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** As Jesus was presented to God by His parents, so we should present our children and ourselves to God in dedication.

**GOLDEN TEXT: FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION.**

Luke 2:30

It had been revealed to Simeon that he should not die until he had seen the Lord Christ. Thus, he lived in hope as all of us do. He was at last blessed with the peace and contentment that comes when hope gives way to sight. Of this peace and satisfaction, he himself testifies, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word." What a tremendous testimony to the power of the WORD, "according to thy WORD." By this same POWER we are buoyed up by HOPE until we too shall see HIM. Simeon needed to wait, that is, to have patience, until the promise was fulfilled. Also believers need to wait patiently: "Run with patience the race that is set before us." "Now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three, but the greatest of these is Charity."

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 23 – 29**

M. Future Foretold. Isaiah 35:1-10

T. Future Assured. Isaiah 51:1-8

W. Jesus Saved in Egypt. Matthew 2:11-15

T. \*Presentation in the Temple. Luke 2:22-38

F. Jesus, David's Son. Luke 20:41-47

S. Jesus Reminds of the Past. Luke 24:13-24

S. Jesus Speaks of Himself. John 8:12-20

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