

The Birth of John

Luke 1:57-80

by Don Falkos

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When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, friends and relatives expected him to be named Zechariah after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No, his name is John."

They were confused; "There's never been anyone in your family named John."

They tried to ask Zechariah, "What name do you want us to give your son?" Apparently they thought since he couldn't speak, he must not be able to hear either.

Zechariah picked up a tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

Immediately, Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and was able to speak. "Praise God who has come to take care of the people of Israel and set them free. God is providing a mighty Savior for us, a descendant of King David. Long ago, through the prophets, God promised we would be saved from all our enemies. That promise is now being fulfilled so we might live our lives for God without fear, being holy and good as long as we live."

Zechariah then picked up his infant son, John, and said, "You, my boy, will be called a prophet of the Most High. You will get everything ready for the coming of the Lord. You will help His people to understand salvation comes through the forgiveness of their sins. God's love and kindness will be like the sun shining in the darkness, guiding us into a life of peace."

John grew up filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and lived a life that was pleasing to God.