

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births of John and Jesus

Luke 1

The Gospel According to LUKE

19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying out loud. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of him.

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births of John and Jesus

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Parallels Between John and Jesus

(IVP Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels – The Gospel of Luke)

John	Event	Jesus
Luke 1:5-7	Parents are introduced	Luke 1:26-27
Luke 1:8-23	Birth is announced	Luke 1:28-38
Luke 1:24-25	Mothers respond	Luke 1:39-56
Luke 1:57-58	A child is born	Luke 2:1-20
Luke 1:59-66	A child is circumcised and named	Luke 2:21-24
Luke 1:67-79	A prophetic response	Luke 2:25-39
Luke 1:80	The child grows	Luke 2:40-52

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births of John and Jesus

of

Promise, Fulfillment and Praise

(IVP Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels – The Gospel of Luke)

Character	Promise	Evidence of Fulfillment	Response of Praise
Zechariah	His wife would bear a son	John is born	Zechariah's Song
Mary	She would conceive a son	Unborn John bears witness to Jesus in the womb; Elizabeth blesses Mary	Mary's Song
Simeon	He would see the Messiah	He encounters Jesus in the temple	Simeon's Song

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births John and Jesus

of

Announcement of the Birth of John (1:5-25)

- Character and circumstance of Zacharias and Elizabeth (vv. 5-7).
- Zacharias' priestly service, and appearance of Gabriel with the promise of John's birth (vv. 8-17).
- Zacharias' reaction, Gabriel's response, the people's reaction, and Elizabeth's response (vv. 18-25).

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births John and Jesus

of

Announcement of the Birth of Jesus (1:26-38)

- Mary introduced, and Gabriel appears to her (vv. 26-28).
- Gabriel explains his greeting, and reveals the promise of Jesus, and His position (vv. 29-33).
- Mary's perplexity, Gabriel's explanation and sign of Elizabeth's pregnancy, and Mary's response (vv. 34-38).

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births John and Jesus

of

Mary Visits Elizabeth (1:39-56)

- Mary visits Elizabeth, and the Holy Spirit causes Elizabeth to speak concerning Mary and her child (vv. 39-45).
- Mary's song (vv. 46-55) – called the “The Magnificat” (Latin for “magnifies” – v. 46)
 - (vv. 46-48) – Mary magnifies God for what He has done for her.
 - (vv. 49-50) – Mary's thoughts extend beyond herself to God's mercy touching all who fear Him.
 - (vv. 51-53) – God's power showing mercy is contrasted with His power showing severity toward those who do not fear Him.
 - (vv. 54-55) – Mary's connection that the mercy shown her by God is the fulfillment of His seed promise made to Abraham and the fathers.

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- Mary stays about three months and returns home (v. 56).

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The Birth of John (1:57-66)

- Elizabeth gives birth, and her neighbors and relatives rejoice with her (vv. 57-58).
- Zacharias and Elizabeth take the child to be circumcised, and he is named John, resulting in the discussion of the people (vv. 59-66).

Lesson 2: Announcements of the Births of John and Jesus

of

Zacharias' Prophecy (1:67-79)

- Zacharias' words are inspired prophecy (v. 67).
- Praise to God for visiting His people with salvation by the Messianic servant of David's lineage sworn to Abraham (vv. 68-75).
- John, Zacharias' son, will be a prophet of God to bring knowledge of salvation through the Messiah to the people (vv. 76-79).

The Early Life of John (1:80)