

## **It's A Boy Named John! God Keeps His Word! Notes12102023am**

**(Luke 1:57-80)**

In his book, *Growing Deep in the Christian Life*, Chuck Swindoll writes,

“History tells us that early in the nineteenth century the whole world was watching with bated breath the campaigns of Napoleon. There was talk everywhere of marches, invasions, battles, and bloodshed as the French dictator pushed his way through Europe. Babies were born during that time. But who had time to think about babies or to care about cradles and nurseries when the international scene was as tumultuous as it was? Nevertheless, between Trafalgar and Waterloo there stole into this world a veritable host of heroes whose lives were destined to shape all of humanity.

Luke is careful in his gospel to give us historical facts. The fact is that the history of the world did not center on Rome but on the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. And the precursor of the birth of Jesus was the birth of another baby - John the Baptist. In an event that seemed so terribly insignificant to the world, God acted in history to put to shame the things that to the world seemed so highly important.

Our subject in this sermon is: “The significance of the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus.” And the primary theological point of this message is that *the coming of the Messiah fills us with comfort and hope.*

We begin with the birth of John the Baptist, Messiah’s forerunner ...

### **I. The Birth Of Messiah’s Forerunner Produces A Powerful \_\_\_\_\_ (1:57-66)**

- **There is the reaction of \_\_\_\_\_ at God’s great \_\_\_\_\_ (1:57-58).**

*-They rejoiced because “It’s a boy! God keeps his \_\_\_\_\_.”*

*-They rejoiced because the Lord had shown \_\_\_\_\_ to Elizabeth (1:58).*

*-They rejoiced because this child would have a \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s long looked-for redemption.*

First, there is the reaction of joy at God’s great mercy. Then...

- **There is the reaction of \_\_\_\_\_ at God’s choice of name (1:59-63).**
- **There is the reaction of \_\_\_\_\_ at God’s powerful act (1:64-66).**  
*-When God acts \_\_\_\_\_ it generates fear.*
- **There is the reaction of \_\_\_\_\_ about God’s future plans (1:66).**

## II. The Advent Of Messiah Himself Produces A \_\_\_\_\_ Song (1:67-79)

- It's a prophetic song of praise for what God has \_\_\_\_\_ in the past - salvation for his people (1:68-75).
- It's a prophetic song of \_\_\_\_\_ of what God is doing in the present - a special child has been born (1:76-77).
- It's a prophetic song of \_\_\_\_\_ of what God will do in the future – he will save his people (1:78-79).
  
- *Peace is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of human well-being.*

That's what everyone desperately wants. It's what you want, whether it be political, psychological, or emotional peace. Above all we want peace of conscience and peace of heart and that only comes from peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who guides us out of our lostness in the morass of spiritual darkness to the way of light and peace.

Peace with God is the only means of peace with each other. Without that peace, the world lies in the hands of the wicked one, in darkness, chaos, and fear. This was the ultimate purpose of Christ's mission, to bring to us the light and sunshine of the new age of God's redeeming grace, to make known "*God's merciful compassion*" to the world, to give us eternal peace. He has made "*peace through his blood, shed on the cross*" (Col. 1:20).

### Final Remarks

*"The child grew up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel"* (1:80). John grew to maturity and, after his priestly service in the temple, went into the desert awaiting the day of his public ministry. In that day, he would declare words of comfort and hope to the people of Israel in the words of Isaiah the prophet: "*Comfort, comfort my people...announce to her that her time of hard service is over, her iniquity has been pardoned*" (Isa. 40:1-2).

*oppressors, he will send them a savior and leader, and he will rescue them* (Isa. 19:20). For, "*I—I am the LORD. Besides me, there is no Savior*" (Isa. 43:11).

If you are a Christian....

- *the coming of the Messiah fills us with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

What comfort, hope, joy, peace we have in the celebration of the first coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And what assurance and confidence we have in the expectation of his second coming.

And if you you're not a Christian, if you've never repented of your sin and turned to God in faith, if you have no comfort and hope, no peace and joy, if you have never experienced God's merciful compassion in forgiveness, then, will you do that today?