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SPEAKERS

Baruch Korman, Intro Voice

Intro Voice 00:03

Shalom, and welcome to via after yisrayl A Hebrew phrase which means you shall love Israel. We hope you'll stay with us for the next 30 minutes as our teacher Dr. Baruch shares his expository teaching from the Bible. Dr. Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zerah Avraham Institute based in Israel. Although all courses are taught in Hebrew at the institute, Dr. Baruch is pleased to share this weekly address in English. To find out more about our work in Israel. Please visit us on the web at love Israel dot o RG That's one word love Israel dot o RG. Now, here's Baroque with today's lesson.

Baruch Korman 00:42

What is faith? Many times people think that faith is simply believing something that is not faith. Faith is specifically believing the truth of God. And many times faith is based upon what God reveals, meaning he confirmed something as truth to you. And now your response is to obey that truth. Obey what is revealed. Many times in the Scripture things are written so that we might know not that we are doubting not that we are unsure, but God confirms the truth of His Word to us. And it's through that confirmation that we can respond with all commitment, believing God and responding to what God has revealed to us. That is faith. And we see that in the passage of scripture that we're going to look at. In this study. We see that faith is Miriam responding to what God has revealed tickets your Bible and look with me to the book of Luke and chapter one. Now, we saw a few weeks ago, the angel Gabrielle appearing to Miriam that is married in the Galilee, she was told that she is going to conceive a son conceived by means of the Holy Spirit. And all of this comes to her within the context of redemption, that God has promised to redeem His people. And that redemption involves victory, specifically, a kingdom victory in order to investigate this, and this is not doubting on her part. But she was also told that a relative her cousin, this cousin, Elizabeth, being an elderly woman, being Baring All of her life, that angel told her as a way of saying you can believe me because your relative Elizabeth has already conceived in her old age, a son. And Elizabeth is there in Judah. What happens Miriam, she leaves the Galilee. She travels southward into Judea, in order to meet Elizabeth. That's what we focus in on last week. And we concluded our study and look with me to that verse, verse 56, Luke's Gospel chapter one and verse 56, where we read, And Miriam remained with her that is with Elizabeth, about three months, and then she returned into her house. Now notice three, there is a six month difference between when John the Baptist was conceived in his mother in Elizabeth, and when your shoe was conceived in Miriam by

means of the Holy Spirit, a six months difference, why is that important? Numbers are always important in the Scripture. We see that the number six, your show up, he was conceived the Scripture tells us back in that same first chapter in verse 26, in the sixth month, the sixth month in the Jewish calendar, that Biblical calendar. Likewise, Elizabeth, she was already in her sixth month, three months have transpired. So what should we get ready for the birth of John the Baptists. So Miriam departs shortly before this child, John, the Baptists is born. And this is what we're going to focus in on in this study, the birth and what is revealed concerning this birth of John the Baptist, look with me to verse 57. We read here and The time for Elizabeth to give birth was fulfilled. So she is about to give birth that time is at hand. And God is indeed, a God of perfect timing. So the time for her to give birth had been fulfilled for Elizabeth. And she gave birth, just like the angel told the father, she gave birth to a son. Why is that important? Well, son, involves an inheritance. And we see that there's going to be an inheritance. That means that there is a future fulfillment for all of this. So she gives birth to a son. And look at verse 58. The neighbors and her relatives, they heard, and they also did something that says that they magnified the Lord, and then it says, His mercy. Now it's an awkward statement, I realized that many English translations render it differently. But what we have here is her neighbors and her relatives, having heard and this is important, because faith comes by hearing, having heard, what did they do? They also did something, they magnified the Lord, that is the exalted Him. And then we're told his mercy. Why is that important? Again, we saw last week, there was an emphasis on mercy. God is a redeeming God, God will fulfill his plans and his purposes for his covenant people, because he is a merciful God, learn a very important principle. Until you experience God's mercy. Nothing spiritually, that is good, is going to happen to your life, meaning this God's work in a person's life. And there's no exceptions to this. God's work. God's blessings, experience in his love, God moving and helping you. Everything that God wants to do in your life, begins with you receiving mercy, His mercy. So our Lord is the Lord of mercy. And all of this is coming about, because God wants to pour out mercy upon people, in order that he will work in their life, and He will bring about a fulfillment of His will in their life. But again, this all begins with mercy. Let me ask you a question. Have you received the mercy of God, there's only one way the container, the means for receiving the mercy of God is the gospel. If you don't receive the gospel, you have not received the Mercy there's no other way. Now, I realized that many times people like to think that there's a multiplicity of solutions, there is not. You need God's mercy. And the only way that you're going to receive that mercy is through receiving the gospel, believing on specifically one, that one you're sure Jesus Christ, conceived, as we've already talked about, by means of the Holy Spirit, this eternal Son of God that entered into this world through the Incarnation, that God becoming flesh, in order that he could do the work of redemption. And there's that inherent connection between redemption and mercy. It is because God is a merciful God, that he redeems, there's only one way. So they magnify the Lord, His mercy with her, and they rejoice. They weren't glad with her. Verse 59.

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Now she gave birth, and we know something, according to the Torah. Let me just be very clear about something. If you are going to understand the New Testament, first you need to understand the law of God, the Torah what I'm speaking about the first five books of the Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy bearer sheet Shimon Viagra Bamidbar Ave. They delivery if someone does not understand those books, what God is revealing filling To understand the Torah is going to obscure for you, both the person and the work of Messiah. What we see here in Luke's gospel, and this is going to become clearer and clearer, not just in chapter one, but chapter two as well. Those whom

God is using. Those whom are spoken of in this first and second chapter, are those who are righteous. What does that mean? We've learned that they apply the law to their life, doesn't mean that they're perfect. It means that when they fail God, when they sin, when they fall short, they turn to the law of God to find reconciliation, to find forgiveness, to find just what we're talking about the mercy of God. So all of this is so important. And look, if you would, to verse 59. It says, Here, you'll see the relationship with the tour in a moment. And it came about for the eighth day. Now, literally, it means not on the eighth day, of course, it happened on the 88th day. But what the text says, It came about, for the sake of the eighth day, what eighth day, his eighth day, the eighth day of John the Baptist, we've learned he was born. And then on the eighth day, what happens when we know what the Torah says? Circumcision? And what is the purpose of circumcision? See, remember, we began by by Miriam remaining with Elizabeth, for about three months three, is the number of revealing something, documenting something. And what is that pointing to she left immediately before he was born. Because there's a son born, there has to be a circumcision. And we see according to Jewish law, that that it's on that eighth day that that newborn baby boy, at his circumcision receives a name. And this is exactly what's going to be going on here. Nothing is surprising, if you know the Jewish backgrounds, circumcision, after the circumcision, immediately, the name is given. What is the purpose of circumcision? Well, we see circumcision relates to and if I and I've done this many times, been speaking to a group. And I'll say circumcision is the sign of fill it in. And you know, what's the most common answer? The law? That is the wrong answer. Circumcision is one of the 613 commandments of the law. But what we need to remember is circumcision was given 400 years before the Torah 400 years before Moses, circumcision relates to the covenant of Avraham and therefore, it's that covenant with Abraham, a covenant of what? Faith? It was because of faith that he entered into that covenant. And what is the message of circumcision? Circumcision speaks to the death of the flesh. Notice that we ended last week talking about Abraham, the seed of Abraham. And what does that mean? God's covenant people, what is redemption? What's the sign of it? What's the benefit of redemption? We no longer live in the flesh. But the flesh is brought to death, that we might live in the Spirit. And it's only through the spirit that we can fulfill the righteousness of the law. It all has unity for the purposes of God. So notice here, verse 59, and it came about for the sake of the eighth day, that that they came to the circumcision of the child means the son, here of of both Zechariah and Elizabeth, and they came and notice it says, And they called him by the name of his father Zechariah. That was a tradition. A firstborn son received the name of his father. But this is something different. Why will the angel already gave the name, the name that he must be cold, and we know what that is? We're talking, of course, about John the Baptists. John, the Baptists. He's the former runner up of messiahs ministry announcing that preparing the way. And this term and Hebrew for John is Yohanan. Johanna speaks about the God who is gracious. And what we find is that there is a relationship between redemption and the grace of God. Yes, God is merciful, but it's through grace, that we receive mercy. It's through grace, that one is safe. One experiences that redemption. It's through grace, that God works in our life to bring about the fulfilment of his will. And therefore, it's not by accident that he's called John. But notice what happens. They call him by the name of his father Zechariah or verse 60. And his mother answering, said, No, but he shall be called yoke nut job. Now, all of this is in fulfillment of what that angel told Zechariah. Were in the holy place, when he was offering up the incense offering, which goes along with the prayers of the people, what did they want? They wanted change, a redemptive change, they wanted reconciliation back to God, they wanted the will of God. And how was that, through the grace of God, write this down. There is a close relationship between God's grace and God's will, you can only experience the will of

God, through the grace of God, and the grace of God, that same grace, which saves, also works in our life to produce the will of God to be fulfilled. That's why grace is so precious. So his mother says, No, he's to be called John, verse 61. And they said to her, that no one among your relatives, is called by this name. So the tradition is you honor a relative, one who is alive or deceased. In some Jewish communities, only those who are deceased, not those who are alive. Others have a different minhag different tradition. But at this time, you would choose a relative, and they're saying, no one among your family, none of your relatives are called John, this just isn't done. Verse 62. But this means in regard to this, they were motioning, they were giving signs to his father. Why, in regard to what he desired, for him to be called. So now they turn to the Father. And this shouldn't be surprising to us, because it is the father who brings his son to be circumcise. And immediately after the circumcision, they turn to the Father. And they say, What is the name of this? This boy?

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He has a responsibility to name it. And what happens? Well, John, remember, because of faithlessness, we see that Zachariah, the father of John could not speak. But now they're asking him, what do you desire for him to be called? And notice what happens? Verse 63. And asking, he was asking for a tablet, a board, a writing tablet, and he wrote, saying, John, is his name. And all of them marveled. They were all surprised why? Well, he writes this down. Yes, John, what has been emphasize is that the Lord is gracious, that God gives grace and everything that God wants to do, through His only begotten Son, the eternal Son of God, Messiah, Yeshua, through John that prepares the way it all has to do with grace. And again, grace is connected to the will of God. Notice what happens there all marveling at this, verse 64. And his tongue was opened immediately. And his mouth literally and his mouth was open a meetly and his tongue want to get this right. And he was speaking The blessings of God. Now, when you look at this texts and any texts in the original language, you know what you see, you see things that stand up. And for the last several verses, many verses, in fact, we haven't come in contact with the imperfect tense. Do you remember what I shared with you about the imperfect tense? Whenever we see it, we should expect a change to come. And John, the father of John Zachariah, he is blessing God for the birth of his son, this one who speaks to the grace of God, but we should expect a change. That fulfillment of God's will is not going to be done ultimately through John, but there's a change coming. There's another one to be born. But setting that aside, he was speaking the blessings of God, through redemption, we can experience God's blessings, verse 65. And it came about upon all, all the ones that were there, the fear for those dwelling around them, meaning this, when this took place, it captured everyone, everyone who was dwelling around them in that location. It caused them to fear this word fear has to do with giving God priority. It foreshadows what's going to happen. Why? Well, you read the book of Matthew chapter three, we see that this one who was just born, John the Baptist, is going to begin his ministry. He's called John the Baptist because he has a ministry of baptism, baptism relating to repentance, and it says, All of Jerusalem, Judea, and the region's round about they go out to John's baptism. What this is foreshadowing is this, all those in the area that heard these things, they're going to respond by giving God priority that word fear relates to giving God priority, and it says, and the whole mountainous regions of, of Judah, all not just the cities, but the mountains, the highlands, it is going to have an impact on that area. And what else were they doing? It says, And all they were speaking in this word for speaking, involves speaking thoroughly speaking completely. There's a prefix for this word speaking, which means to begin here, and go all the way across. And that's why translated, they were speaking, they all were speaking thoroughly in regard

to these words, these things that are happening, this and the word here that's us speaks about a prophetic word that produces an outcome, all of this foreshadows that there's going to be an outcome, a mighty outcome that relates to redemption, salvation, victory for God's people, and realize victory is found in the will of God, verse 66. And all the ones who were hearing, it was set upon their hearts. Now what it's saying here is this, because they feared God, they gave priority to God, God did something. Faith comes by hearing all the ones who are hearing what happens. It says here, it was set upon those who are hearing upon their hearts saying, why therefore, is this child? Why? For what reason is this child? What is the text speaking to us? That there should be an expectation? Now, here's what we should understand. God is at work. And when God is at work, when he is moving, his people should have an expectation. DOD is getting ready to do something. All of this is preparation. We're talking about John the Baptist, his birth and the call upon his life. All of that is getting things ready for the work of Messiah. There's a course his first work why came the first time and there's his second work what he will do in the last days, when he is going to gather up His people, and he is going to give us the fulfillment, the outcome. In other words, of our salvation, that new body, that kingdom body. So what we're reading here causes us to, to anticipate something greater to take place. Look again, upon all those who were hearing in their hearts, he said it and we could say set it upon their hearts, those who were hearing, saying, What therefore, will be with this child, and the hands of the Lord was with him. This word hand, understand, we see hand relating to the work of God. And what the Scriptures telling us is God is going to work through first John the Baptist, and then John, through this anointing this call upon his life, he's going to prepare the people for who, for the one who follows Him, for the one who is greater than him. Even John says and testifies, I'm not worthy to even loosen up the shoe strains of this one. John, a humble man, whom God used mightily to prepare a people, a people for the mercy of God, the grace of God, and ultimately, God's will. Let me ask you a question. Are you prepared? Are you someone like these individuals that heard and they pondered what God was up to? Let me assure you if something God is at work today, when you know prophecy, you can see that God is bringing change, about prophetic change. It's going to begin with difficulty with hardship. There is coming upon this world in the last days, a time of darkness. Don't believe the false teachers who think things are going to get better that we're going to just triumph it over all evil, and we're going to prepare the world for the kingdom of God. And besides return, no, we're not. What is a message for believers today? Take up your cross and follow me that is a call to serve. It is a call to suffer. It is a call to be willing to lay down your life for the purposes of God. Are you prepared for that? Is that the understanding that you have for what God is moving, how he's moving today in the life of believers? I hope it is because this is exactly what God is up to.

Intro Voice 27:55

Well, we hope you will benefit from today's message and share it with others please plan to join us each week at this time and on this channel for our broadcast of love israel.org again to find out more about us please visit our website love Israel dot o RG there you will find articles and numerous other lectures by Varun. These teachings are in video for may download them or watch them in streaming video. Until next week, may the Lord bless you in our Messiah Yeshua. That is Jesus as you walk with it. Shalom from Israel.