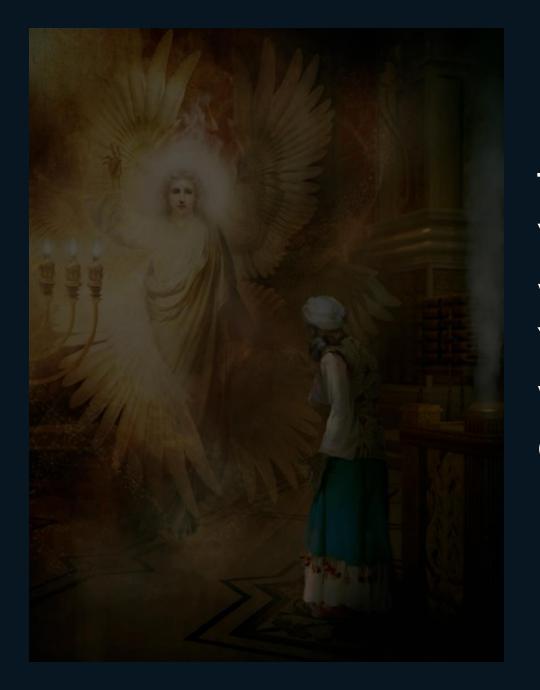




Luke chapter 1 introduces Zechariah and Elizabeth as:

"righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly."





The angel says,
"Do not be afraid, Zechariah;
your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear
you a son, and you are to
call him John."



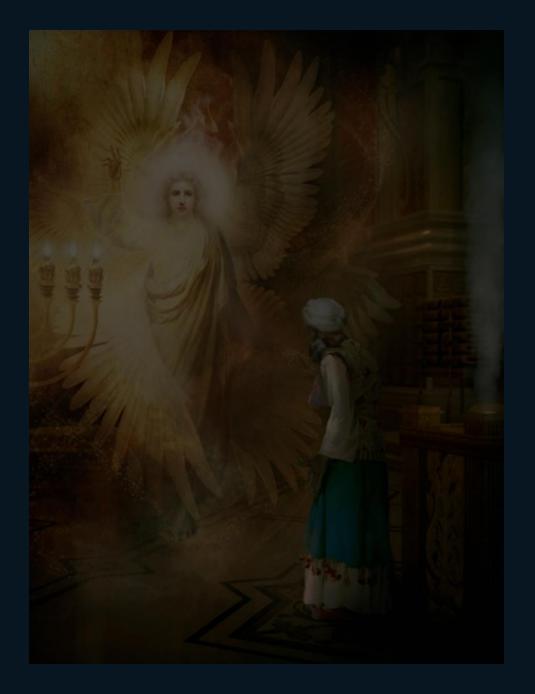
"He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord... He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:14-17



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Luke 1:14-17



"How can I be sure of this?" he asked. "I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

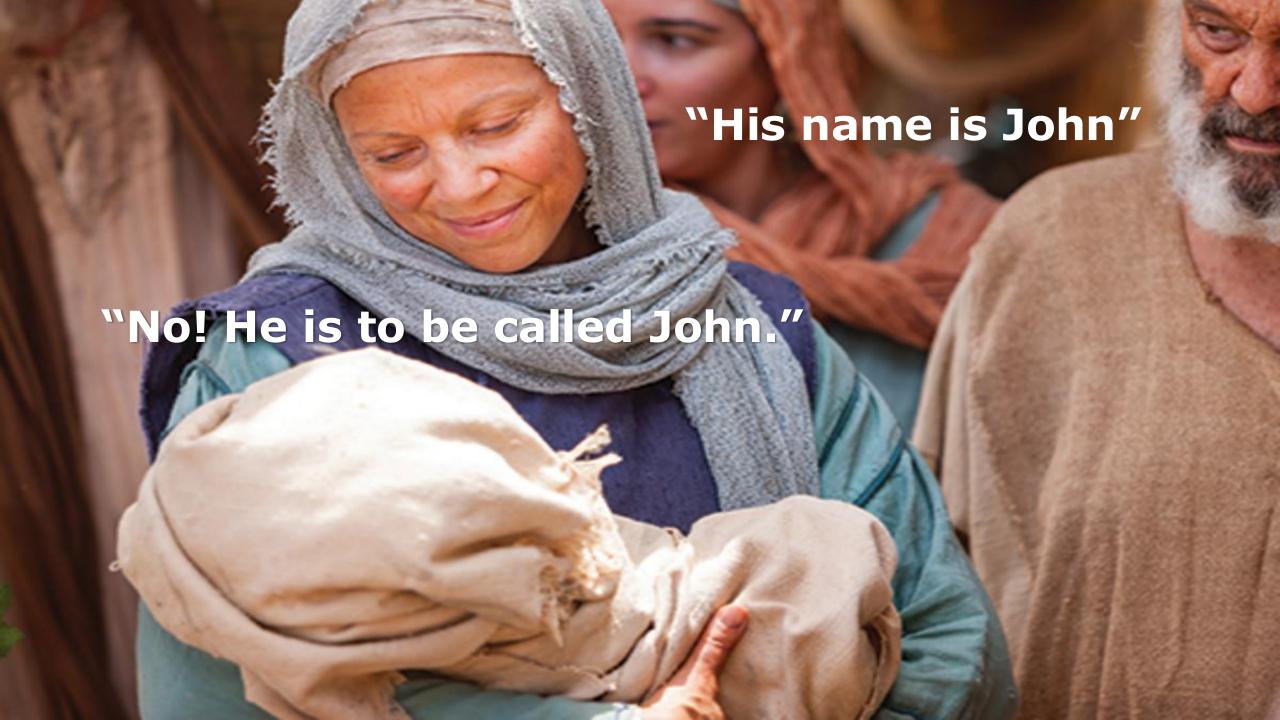
"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."



The unborn John in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy."



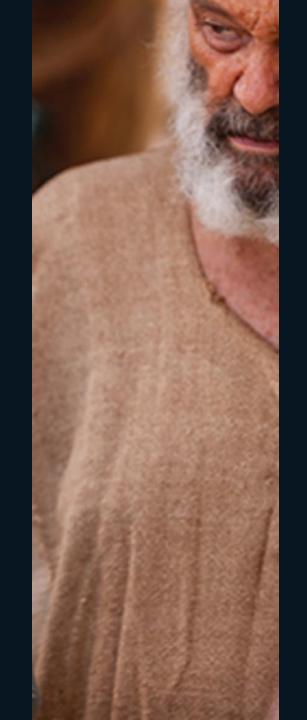




Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, foretold the mission of his son:

"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins."

Luke 1:76-77

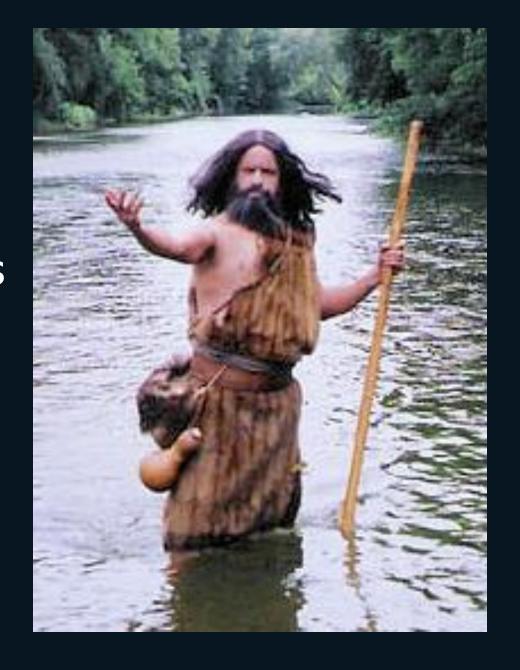


"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!" Matthew 3:2



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!" Matthew 3:2

He was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our **God.'"** Isaiah 40:3





Isaiah had spoken of a coming Messiah:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah 9:2



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Malachi prophesied a forerunner:

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Malachi 3:1



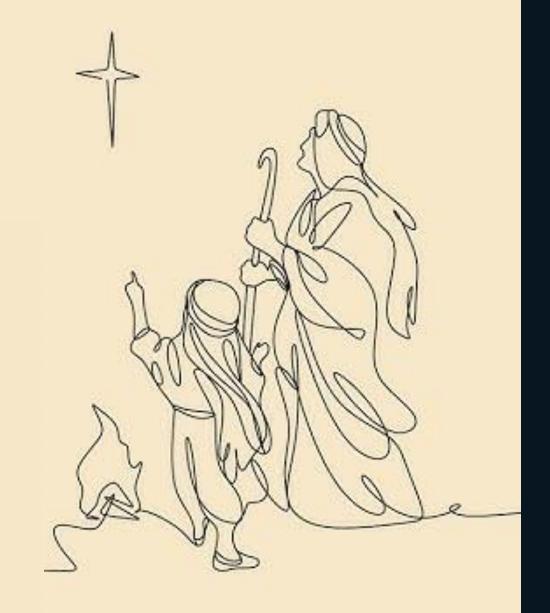
John tells them:

"Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." Luke 3:8

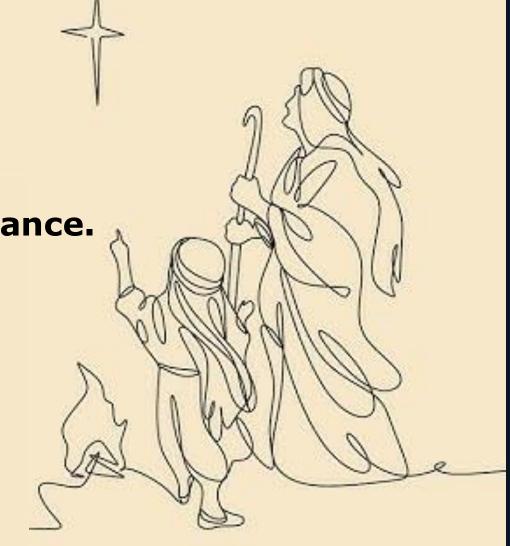
"I baptize you with water... but He who is coming after me is mightier... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Matthew 3:11

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29



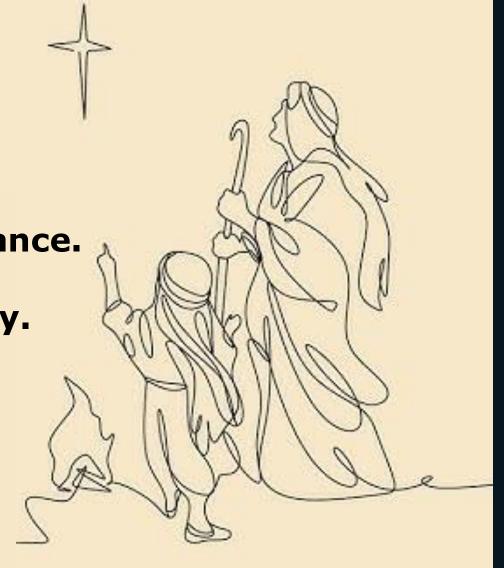


1st We Prepare the Way with Repentance.



1st We Prepare the Way with Repentance.

2nd We Prepare the Way with Humility.



1st We Prepare the Way with Repentance.

2nd We Prepare the Way with Humility.

3rd We Prepare the Way by Pointing to Jesus.

