



*Christmas*  
**THROUGH THE EYES OF**  
*Angels*





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**“GETTING READY  
FOR JESUS”**





**Have You Started Decorating Yet?**





**Halliwell Family – Fairfield, CT**









**Why Would God  
Start This Gospel  
Out With John's  
Birth Instead of  
Jesus'?**

**Luke 1:3 (NKJV)** — “**it seemed good to me** also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you **an orderly account**, most excellent Theophilus...”

# Luke

**Luke Was Not  
an Eye-Witness,  
But a Collector  
of Stories**

## Introduction

I have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the first were witnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

## The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

<sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when Zechariah was on duty and he was serving at the altar of the Lord, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by the custom of the priests to enter the temple of the Lord and when the time for the incense came, all the assembly was praying outside.

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel appeared to him, standing on the right side of Zechariah. Zechariah was startled and was afraid, but the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will be called his name. This is your word by the signs of the prophets."

Elizabeth became pregnant and in the sixth month she remained in seclusion. When she had seen him, they did not confirm his word by the signs of the prophets. Elizabeth said, "I have done this for me," she said. "The Lord is with me, and he has shown his favor and mercy to me." Elizabeth said, "My disgrace among the people is gone."

## Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Gabriel pledged to be married to a virgin, whose name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel said to her, "Greetings, you are favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this was.

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. This will be his sign: he will be born of a virgin." Mary asked, "How can this be?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Lord will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God."



# Why Does Luke Tell About John's Birth First?

- John had to come **BEFORE** Jesus



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**Malachi 3:1 (NLT)** — “Look! I am sending my messenger, and **he will prepare the way before me.** Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.”



**Isaiah 40:3–5 (NLT)** — “Listen! It’s the voice of someone shouting, ‘Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! **Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!** **4** Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. **5** Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!’”



# Why Does Luke Tell About John's Birth First?

- John had to come **BEFORE** Jesus
- He had a specific **MISSION**



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**Luke 1:76–79 (NLT) — “And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. **77** You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. **78** Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, **79 to give light to those who sit in darkness** and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”**



# Why Does Luke Tell About John's Birth First?

- John had to come **BEFORE** Jesus
- He had a specific **MISSION**
- Announce Messiah was coming



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**John 1:29 (NLT)** — “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”





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**JOHN CAME FIRST TO PREPARE THE WAY**





John Prepared People to **SEE JESUS FOR WHAT HE WAS**





People only see what  
they are prepared to see.

Ralph Waldo Emerson





Until people  
**SEE** Jesus as  
He really is,  
their lives  
don't change  
that much



**John 14:6 (NLT)** — “Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”

**Acts 4:12 (NLT)** — “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

For Those Who Don't Put  
Their Trust in Jesus, THIS  
is Their Promised Future





**Matthew 3:1–2 (NLT)** — “In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, **2 ‘Repent of your sins and turn to God,** for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.’”



To Be  
Prepared for  
Jesus, a  
Person's  
**HEART** Has to  
**CHANGE**



**Matthew 3:1–3 (NLT)** — “In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, **2 ‘Repent of your sins and turn to God,** for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.’ **3** The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, ‘He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming! Clear the road for him!’”

**Matthew 3:5–8 (NLT)** — “People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. **6** And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. **7** But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. ‘You brood of snakes!’ he exclaimed. ‘Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? **8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.’”**





**A Brood of Vipers**

**Luke 13:1–3 (NLT)** — “About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. **2** ‘Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?’ Jesus asked. ‘Is that why they suffered? **3** Not at all! **And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God.**”





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**“REPENT... OR YOU’LL PERISH?”**

**If a Person Doesn't  
Repent of Their Sins,  
They'll Perish.**





**Acts 2:36 (NLT)** — “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

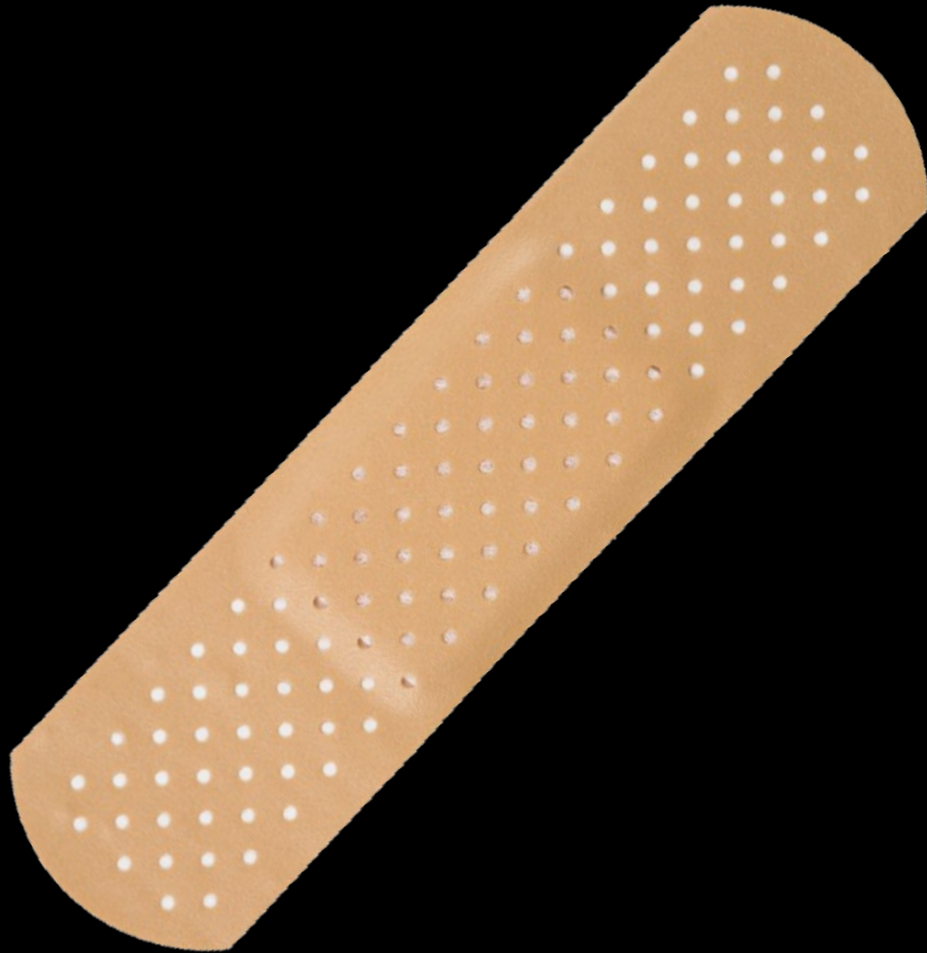
**Acts 3:15 (NLT)** — “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!”



**Acts 5:28 (NLT)** — ““We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man’s name!’ he said. ‘Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!’”

**Acts 2:38 (NLT)** — “Peter replied, ‘Each of you must **repent of your sins and turn to God**, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”





Without Jesus in a  
person's life, any **FIX**  
a person makes to  
their lives will be like  
putting a **BAND-AID**  
on a compound  
**FRACTURE**

**LIFE IS SHORT  
DEATH IS SURE  
SIN THE CAUSE  
CHRIST THE CURE**

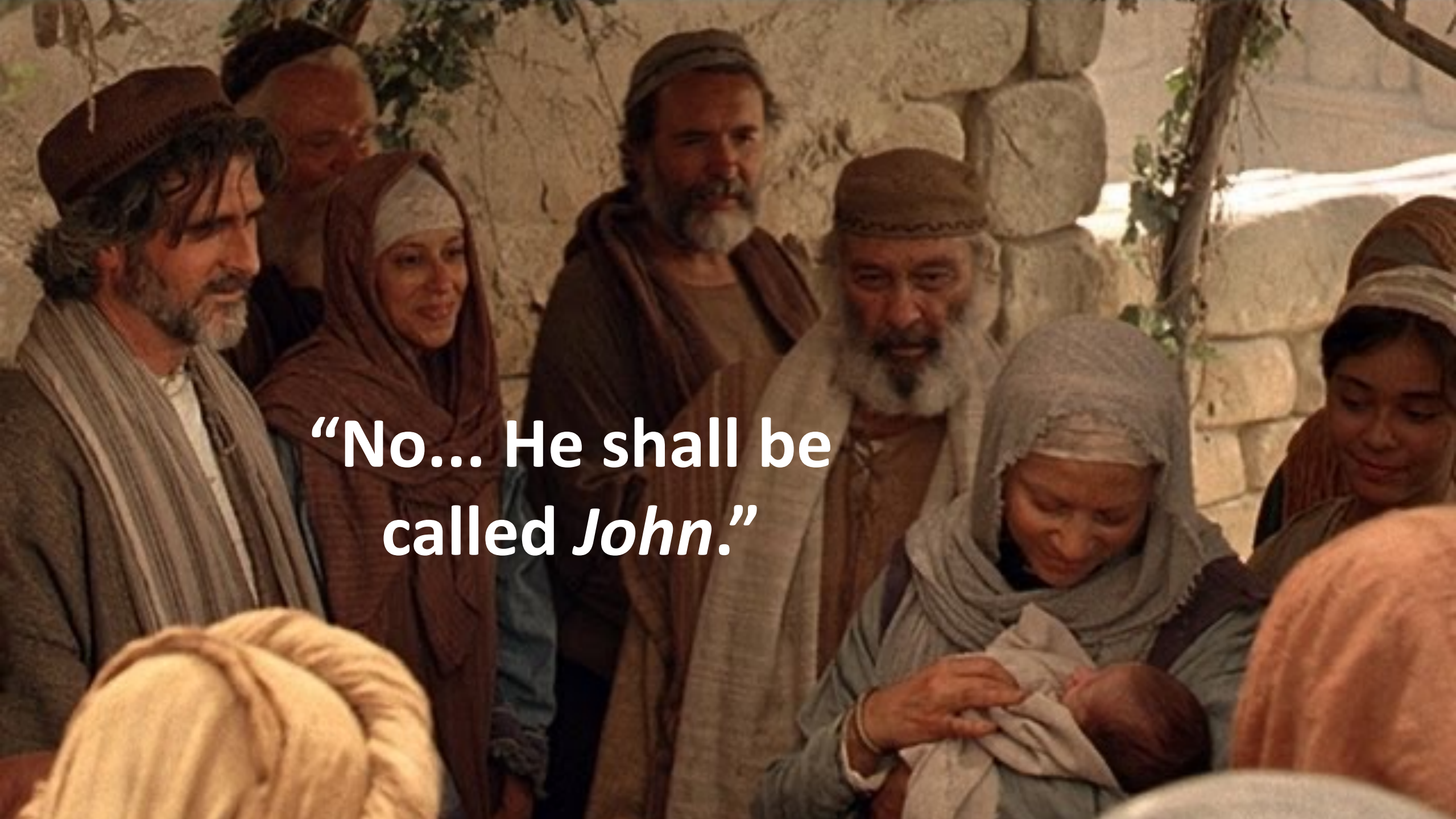




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JOHN WAS **BORN** TO PREACH "JESUS"



A group of people in traditional Middle Eastern attire are gathered around a woman who is holding a baby. The woman is wearing a light-colored headscarf and a blue garment. She is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The baby is wrapped in a light-colored cloth. The people around her are dressed in brown and grey robes and head coverings. The background shows a stone wall and some greenery. The scene is set outdoors, possibly in a courtyard or a street in a village.

**“No... He shall be called *John*.”**



“His name is John.”



**Luke 1:13 (NLT)** — “But **the angel said**, ‘Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and **you are to name him John.**’”



# Why the Name “JOHN”?

- It was **GOD’S IDEA**
- It’s **MEANING**: “God is Gracious”



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**Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)** — “For **by grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...”



# Why the Name “JOHN”?

- It was **GOD’S IDEA**
- It’s **MEANING**: “God is Gracious”
- John was born to **TESTIFY** about Jesus, and **EVERYTHING** in his life pointed to that



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A close-up photograph of ocean waves, showing the texture of the water and the white foam of the breaking waves. The text 'BORN AGAIN' is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**BORN AGAIN**

**John 3:3 (NKJV)** — “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”



The background of the image shows gentle ocean waves with a soft, golden-brown hue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water's surface is textured with small ripples and larger, calm waves. Overlaid on this background is white, bold, sans-serif text.

**WE ARE  
BORN AGAIN  
TO POINT TO JESUS**





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