

## *The Parents of John the Baptist*

*“5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. 11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. 18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. 19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. 20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. 21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. 22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. 23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, 25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.” (Luke 1:5-25 KJV)* Zachariah as a priest trusted in the Lord and was praying that his wife Elizabeth will have a child because she was barren and he and his wife were stricken in age. Finally, the Lord answered his prayer and sent His angel to announce to him the good news that his wife will be pregnant, *“Thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.” (Luke 1:13 KJV)* The meaning of ‘John’, is ‘Jehovah is a gracious giver’. God is the gracious giver of every child. If you don't have children pray to God to give you because children come from the Lord. God wants you to realize that He gives you children to accomplish His purpose and as the following:

**A. To increase and build up your faith:** God is the giver of life and you need to trust Him that He will be the one to give you children. Do not be afraid; believe the Word of God and do not doubt.

**B. To bring you joy and delight:** *“14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.” (Luke 1:14 KJV)* That is very true, you will have joy and gladness if you abide in His will to raise the children that God gives you in a prescribed way; in the fear of the Lord.

**C. To correct them and discipline them:** *“17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.” (Proverbs 29:17 KJV)* \* When you discipline your children they will be a source of joy to you and others. \* As you commit yourself to live in the fear of the Lord, to abstain from worldly pleasure, to train your children and keep them away from worldly things like watching television, movies, video games, going out with friends, joining parties and clubs, having affairs with another gender, then you will see that your children are given to you by the Lord to be raised to do the great things of God.

**D. To be aware of the great purpose of God in the life of your children:** *“15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.” (Luke 1:15 KJV)* \* God had called you from your mother's womb and He wants you to accept and realize that He had called your children to serve Him even before their birth. \* When you keep the atmosphere of your home clean and away from television and satellite programs, away from video games, away from bad friends and bad relatives, but filled with the reading of God's Word, prayer and kneeling down, and instructions from God's Word then the Holy Spirit will dwell and fill you and will fill every one of your children. \* The Holy Spirit gift will enable you to serve God with the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues. Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, gift of faith, gift of healings, gift of working miracles, gift of giving, showing mercy, gifts of helps, leadership, administration, gift of exhorters, pastors, teachers, prophets, and evangelists. \* All these gifts will be used for the glory of God to bring others into God's Kingdom and into God's service.

**E. To be aware that your children are called to be God's ministers:** They are called to prepare the way for the Lord: to bring lukewarm people back to revival and to serve God: The Lord would use them to change people's hearts and lives: and to raise a new generation to serve God with a compassionate and caring hearts, to be true spiritual fathers and mothers: *“16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Luke 1:16-17 KJV)*

After the birth of John the Baptist let us read the response of the people and what further took place: *“59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. 60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. 61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. 62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. 63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. 64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. 65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. 66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him. 67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember*

his holy covenant; 73 *The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,* 74 *That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,* 75 *In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.* 76 *And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;* 77 *To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,* 78 *Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,* 79 *To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.* 80 *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.” (Luke 1:59-80 KJV)*

**F. To be aware of what your children are going to be:** “66 *And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.” (Luke 1:66 KJV)* \* Thus will be the testimony of your children when you raise them according to God’s standard that the hand of the Lord shall be with them. \* Your children are God’s wonderful work in your life. Therefore you need to be aware that you are a royal priest and are called by God to raise a holy generation and future ministers who would prepare the way before the Lord Jesus and bring the light of God’s salvation to the rest of mankind who are away from God. The father of John the Baptist was a priest and John the Baptist, was a priest who served God mightily.

**G. To encourage and commission your children with this message:** Your children should hear from you the following: “76 *And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways.* 77 *To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,” (Luke 1:76 KJV)* and that will be their ministry from the Lord: *That they are the prophets of God and they shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways and lead the people into the ways of the Lord, by proclaiming to them the salvation of God though Jesus Christ our Lord who came to forgive the people from their sins by His death on the cross, and you are the one whom God called to train them and equip them for that particular mission that God had prepared for your children.*

Truly Zacharias, and his wife Elisabeth raised John in the fear of the Lord. He started to serve God and proclaimed to the people the message that they needed to know, “1 *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,* 2 *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* 3 *For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” (Matthew 3:1-6 KJV)* John gave them the message of repentance that they needed to repent of their sin and turn to God. He was living in the wilderness, to set good example for the people to live away from worldliness, and in a simple way of living as we read here. “4 *And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.” (Matthew 3:4 KJV)* Indeed the people responded to his message that came from God; they came to him, repented of their sins and got baptized in water, “5 *Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,* 6 *And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.” (Matthew 3:5-6 KJV)* John preached to the people and directed them to Jesus that He will be the one to baptize them with the Holy Spirit: “7 *And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.* 8 *I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 3:7-8 KJV)* “26 *John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but*

*there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;* 27 *He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose.* 28 *These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.* 29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* 30 *This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.* 31 *And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.* 32 *And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.* 33 *And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.* 34 *And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.” (John 1:26-34 KJV)* John preached well about Christ; he spoke precisely about Him, and was a good teacher to the people and good testimony for them to believe in Jesus. And the same people testified that the teaching of John was precise about Christ, “40 *And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.* 41 *And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.* 42 *And many believed on him there.” (John 10:40-42 KJV)*

**My Dear and Beloved:** Your children are God’s children, and He gave them to you to raise them in the prescribed way that they would finally serve Him and take the lead to do the will of God and the works of God and be His instruments to deliver mankind from the peril of sin and devil. To this, you are called as parents, for God desires you to work hand in hand with Him and to do properly your part.

Therefore, let us be inspired with the message and do the works of God entrust to us to raise our children in a Godly way and train them to do the mission of God, preaching the gospel to the people and prepare them for the second coming of Christ. Let us pray ...

**My prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for my family and the children that you gave me. Lord thank you for your Word that encouraged me to continue to do my part to raise my children in the fear of God trusting you that you will be doing your part and use them to preach your Word and evangelize and tell the people about Jesus.

Come now to God and repent of all your sins. Repent and renounce your doubts, lack of faith and discouragements. Repent of your non willingness to serve Christ and suffer for Him. Repent and renounce your worldliness and your love for money and the rest of material things. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Repent and renounce your lack of family worship, praying and reading the Bible with them. Repent that you are not willing to discipline your children and raise them in the fear of God. Repent of being yoked with non believers and spending much time with your friends, and on the Media and News. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins

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Lord I commit myself to apply the message that I received in my life. Lord I commit myself to discipline my children, raise them in the fears of you and train them to serve you. Lord fill me

*and my family with the Holy Spirit to go on and serve you and do your works, and to be a good example and testimony to others to follow you.*

*Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to do your will by teaching their children, disciplining them, and raise them in the fear of yours. Lord I pray for those who has no children Lord give them children so they will raise them and dedicate them to you to serve you. Lord bless them, protect them, provide their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord use their lives as testimonies to others to continue to serve you.*

*Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach your Word and help your people, the families under our care to train them to raise their children in the fear of God and to serve you. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages to happen and more Godly families to be formed and more children to be dedicated to you. Lord prepare us for your second coming. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord take the message and spread it to bring the fruits you desire. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Parents of John the Baptist. Luke 1:5-25, 59-80. Proverbs 29:17. Matthew 3:14-8. John 1:26-34. John 10:40-42.

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