

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E15

Title – The Six Insights About John From Gabriel

Description – In the Holy of Holies, the angel Gabriel appears and tells Zechariah some very specific things about the baby boy he and his wife Elizabeth will soon have. Join us today as we look at these six insights about John, the forerunner of the Messiah.

Continuing through Luke 1 today, after dipping our toe into Matthew as we continue to try to follow the story chronologically.

As we get back to Zechariah, he's in the temple, he and his wife Elizabeth are childless and at least 60 years old at this point.

Luke 1:14-17

¹⁴ There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people."

Gabriel is going to give Zechariah 6 insights into his son, John

1. He will be great in the sight of the Lord
 - a. He will be righteous, blameless, approved by God

2. He will never drink Wine or Beer
 - a. OT reference - Nazarite Vow
 - b. Numbers 6 - The Lord gives Moses instructions on the Nazarite Vow
 - c. Only two people were set apart from birth in the OT to be Nazarites from birth
 - i. Samson
 - ii. Samuel
 - d. Anyone could at any time commit to taking the Nazarite vow. And if you did, you were immediately identified from the outside by your long hair.

3. He will be controlled / filled by the Holy Spirit
 - a. While he was still in his mothers womb
 - b. Why is that different from what's happened so far in the OT?
 - i. In the OT the Holy Spirit would come upon someone intermittently to accomplish a purpose / task.
 - ii. After Pentecost, the Holy Spirit would come upon believers and LIVE within us.
 - c. John starts the difference. From birth he will be filled / controlled by the Holy Spirit.

- d. Eph 5:18 - "Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled by the Holy Spirit."
4. He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God
- a. Malachi 4:5-6
 - b. ⁵ Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse."
 - c. What does "turn the heart" mean? Repentance.
 - d. A father will reconcile with their child, and children will reconcile with their parents.
 - e. But spiritually, Israel is always called the children of God, and God is called their Father.
 - f. There will be repentance, restoration and renewal coming to the people and to the land, and then the Messiah will come.
5. He will come in the Spirit & Power of Elijah
- a. Malachi 3:1
 - b. "See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to his temple, the Messenger of the covenant you delight in—see, he is coming," says the LORD of Armies.
6. He will make ready for the Lord a prepared people
- a. Malachi 3:16-18
 - b. ¹⁶ At that time those who feared the LORD spoke to one another. The LORD took notice and listened. So a book of remembrance was written before him for those who feared the LORD and had high regard for his name. ¹⁷ "They will be mine," says the LORD of Armies, "my own possession on the day I am preparing. I will have compassion on them as a man has compassion on his son who serves him. ¹⁸ So you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Next week we'll talk about what does it mean to prepare the way for the Lord, and why is Zechariah made mute when Mary wasn't?