

**Angels & Advent
Day 7
John the Baptist is Born**

Reading: Luke 1:57-80



Luke 1:57-80:

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son.

58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her.^a

59* When they came on the eighth day to circumcise^h the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother said in reply, “No. He will be called John.”ⁱ

61 But they answered her, “There is no one among your relatives who has this name.”

62 So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.

63 He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed.

64 Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God.ⁱ

65 Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea.

66 All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, “What, then, will this child be?” For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

The Canticle of Zechariah.

67 Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying:

68* “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.^k

69* He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant,^l

70 even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old:

71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,^m

72 to show mercy to our fathersⁿ and to be mindful of his holy covenant

73 and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father,^p

and to grant us that, 74 rescued from the hand of enemies,

without fear we might worship him 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.^q

76 And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord* to prepare his ways,^r

77 to give his people knowledge of salvation

through the forgiveness of their sins,

78 because of the tender mercy of our God^s

by which the daybreak from on high* will visit us^t

79 to shine on those who sit in darkness and death’s shadow,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.^u

Reflect:

John appeared in the desert with a new and radical message; the long awaited and promised Messiah was coming, get ready and prepare for Him. John was only the messenger; he himself was not the Messiah. His role was to point to Jesus, to lead people to Jesus and to prepare people for Jesus. John was the messenger in time;

Jesus is the Word for eternity. - Michael Moore OMI

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:4-5

He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30

Does Jesus come first in your life?