



A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

By Johnny Caruso on January 3, 2022

READING: Luke 1

We know the phrase from Isaiah 40:3, describing John the Baptizer. John's message was repentance. Chapter 1 of Luke gives us some background of John, who turns out to be somewhat of a strange, yet focused, man of the gospel. We know John's father was a priest. His mother was from the family line of Aaron, so she came from a family of priests. If you were a priest you were divided into 24 ancestral divisions and expected to serve in the temple twice a year for one week at a time.

Zachariah, John's father, was in the middle of one of those weeks of service when he was chosen to go to the temple and burn the incense. While doing his duty, an angel appeared to Zachariah and told him that his wife, who was older, would have a son. This appearance of the angel literally scared the voice right out of Zachariah, and he was unable to speak. During the angel's appearance we find out what John is going to be like:

- Elizabeth will bear a son.
- His name will be John.
- He will bring them joy and gladness.
- Many will rejoice at his birth.
- He will be great before the Lord.
- He must not drink wine or strong drink.
- He will be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- He will turn many of the children of Israel back to God.
- He will go before the Messiah in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children.

John sets the table as the forerunner for the runner (Jesus). This shows us how (as we will see in our daily readings) the Old Testament is connected to the New Testament. It also show us that our prayers are important to God and He hears us.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for preparing for us a way through John to Jesus. Remind us today that we will cross paths with those who do not know You and need to.

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 2

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