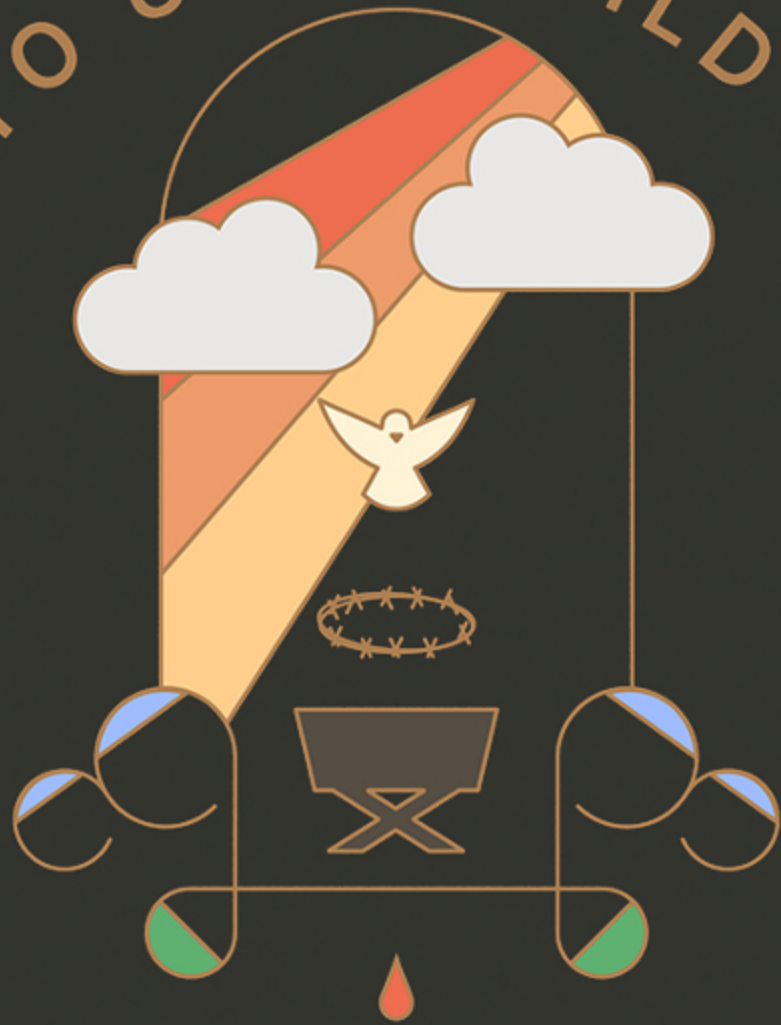


FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN



For unto us a Child is born,


Unto us a Son is given;

Isaiah 9:6a NKJV




I. The story of the birth of John.






⁵ When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron.




Luke 1:5-7 NLT



⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

Luke 1:5-7 NLT






⁸ One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. ⁹ As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ While the incense was being



Luke 1:8-17 NLT




burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

¹¹ While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹² Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³ But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid,

Luke 1:8-17 NLT






Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. 14 You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.




Luke 1:8-17 NLT



16 And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. 17 He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”




Luke 1:8-17 NLT



¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

Luke 1:18-22 NLT






19 Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! 20 But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper



Luke 1:18-22 NLT



time.”²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long.²² When he finally did come out, he couldn’t speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary.



Luke 1:18-22 NLT



Zechariah looked at circumstances first and what God can do last. We are tempted to think this is logical but if God is real, there is nothing logical about putting circumstances before Him.



⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

Luke 1:57-58 NLT



II. The birth of John gives us the hope that God will fulfill all His promises.





45 Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true.

Joshua 21:45 NLT




**23 Let us hold tightly without
wavering to the hope we affirm,
for God can be trusted to keep his
promise.**

Hebrews 10:23 NLT



God fulfills His promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth.



¹³ 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. ¹⁴ You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,”

Luke 1:13-14 NLT



God fulfills His promise to Zechariah and Elizabeth.

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

Luke 1:57-58 NLT



III. What can we learn about the promises of God from the birth of John?



Promises work within a plan.

**9As was the custom of the priests,
he was chosen by lot to enter the
sanctuary of the Lord and burn
incense.**

Luke 1:13-14 NLT



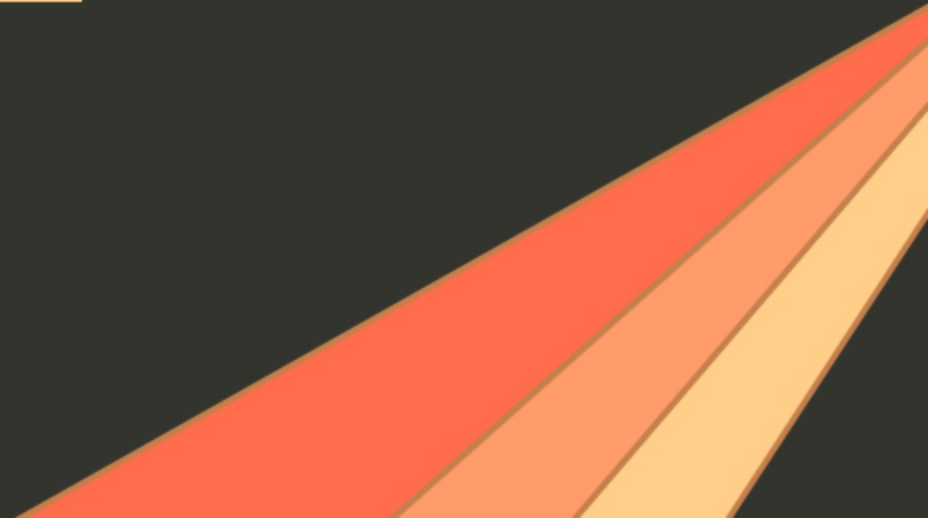


**How we respond to the
promises of God matters.**





**What were the consequences
of Zechariah's unbelief?**



WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ZECHARIAH'S UNBELIEF?

Unbelief robs us of our voice.

²⁰ “But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

Luke 1:20 NLT



WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ZECHARIAH'S UNBELIEF?

Unbelief robs us of our effectiveness.

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. ²²When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them.

Luke 1:21-22a NLT



**Zechariah's unbelief didn't make God take
back His promise - it just kept Zechariah
from enjoying it to its fullest.**



Believing promises of God takes action.

⁵⁹ When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. ⁶⁰ But Elizabeth said, “No! His name is John!”

Luke 1:59-64 NLT



Believing promises of God takes action.

⁶¹ “What?” they exclaimed. “There is no one in all your family by that name.” ⁶² So they used gestures to ask the baby’s father what he wanted to name him. ⁶³ He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s surprise he wrote, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴ Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

Luke 1:59-64 NLT





God waited for Zechariah to act on his faith before he was able to speak again. By naming the baby John — in obedience to God — Zechariah proved that he believed all of God's promise.