

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL

27 December 2020

Text: Luke 1:76-80

Subject: Future of John the Baptist foretold

INTRODUCTION

1. We conclude our reading of the prophecy given by Zacharias

2. The ministry of the Holy Spirit

a) His work is needed

b) He needs to enlighten

c) He needs to empower

d) This is done by “filling”

3. Prophecies

a) Concerning what God was going to do Luke 1:68-75

b) Concerning the infant John Luke 1:76-79

THE FUTURE MINISTRY OF JOHN

1. He will become a prophet of the Highest Luke 1:76a

a) The Highest
This is a reference to God

b) A prophet

i) A servant of God

ii) Special ministry of prophesying

iii) A special status in this context

2. Prophets

a) Their ministries including prophesying

b) Their ministry also includes preaching

c) They fulfil special roles assigned to them

d) Some were non-writing prophets

i) Elijah

ii) Elisha

e) Others were writing prophets

i) Isaiah

ii) Jeremiah

3. John's role as a special prophet of God

a) This was already made known by the angel Gabriel Luke 1:15-17

i) He will be great in the sight of the Lord

ii) He will be filled with the Holy Spirit

iii) He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God

iv) He will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah
to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children

v) And the disobedient to the wisdom of the just

vi) To make ready a people prepared for the Lord

b) Zacharias did not believe the word of the angel Gabriel at first

c) Now Zacharias speaks as a prophet of God predicting the future ministry of
John, his infant son

i) He will go before the face of the Lord Luke 1:76b

ii) He will prepare His ways Luke 1:76c

iii) He will give knowledge of salvation
to His people by the remission of sins Luke 1:77

d) The greater ministry of the Messiah

i) The great mercy of God would be shown
"the tender mercy of our God" Luke 1:78a

ii) The Dayspring from on High has visited us Luke 1:78b

iii) To give light to those who sit in darkness Luke 1:79a

iv) And the shadow of death Luke 1:79b

v) To guide our feet into the way of peace Luke 1:79d

THE NECESSARY GROWTH OF JOHN

1. The child grew Luke 1:80a

2. And became strong in spirit Luke 1:80b

SPECIAL PREPARATION

1. In the deserts

2. Till the day of his manifestation to Israel Luke 1:80c

LESSONS THAT ARE APPLICABLE

1. The Plan of God

a) There is always a plan

b) The challenge is finding knowledge and wisdom

2. The Power of God

a) This is needed

b) It is to be found in being Spirit-filled

3. The People chosen by God

a) Chosen for salvation

b) Chosen for service

4. A Program for Growth

a) Knowledge

b) Faith

c) Strength

d) Service