

Week 28 Parent Sheet: An Angel Visits Zechariah / Mary

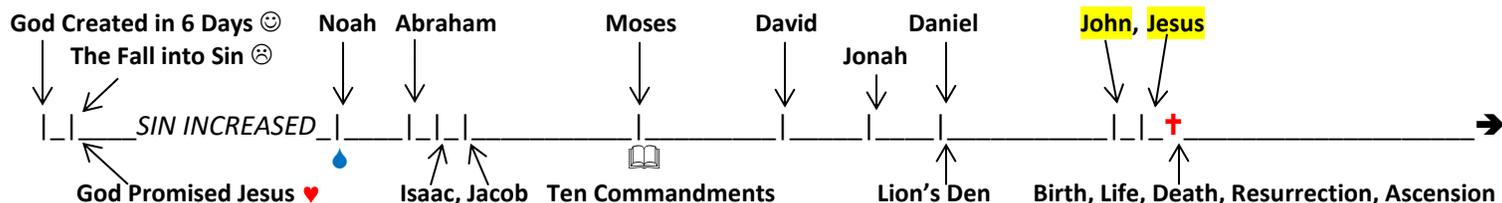
Luke 1:5-22; 1:26-38 NIV

God – in miraculous ways – brought John and Jesus into the world!

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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The Old Testament covers approximately 4,000 years; this timeline shows some key events:



Previous history:

1. When Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised to send His Son to save them.
2. During the 4,000 years of the OT, God kept pointing the people to the coming of His Son; those who trusted in the coming Messiah were saved.

An Angel Visits Zechariah:

1. Zechariah and Elizabeth: ⁶ Both of them were upright in the sight of God... ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.
2. An angel visits Zechariah when he was serving in the temple: ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you... ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God."
3. Zechariah did *not* believe the angel: ¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." ¹⁹ The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe..."

An Angel Visits Mary:

1. An angel visits Mary: ²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
2. What will happen: ³¹ "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."
3. Mary does not doubt but wants to understand: ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God... ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Thoughts:

1. No matter how impossible it sounds, we should always believe the Bible, *which is God's Holy Word!*
2. The miraculous births of John and Jesus should cause us to *know for sure* that God is at work just as He promised! He sent John to prepare the way for Jesus – *by calling people to be sorry for their sins*; then He sent Jesus – *to take away the sin of the world!*
3. Have questions, need help? Pastor: 440-292-5915