



What Can We Learn from Zechariah, Mary and John the Baptist about Preparing for the Coming of Christ?



*The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”*

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and*

*wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

*Luke 1:28-33*

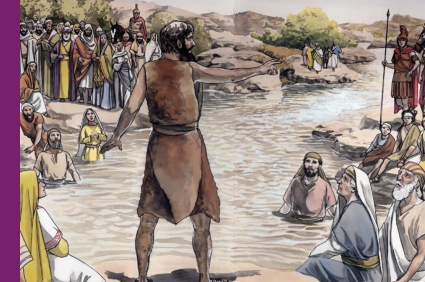
*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, [You will be with child and give birth to a son the government will be on his shoulders.... He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.] And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. [he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."] He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, [The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,] establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

*Isaiah 9:6-7*



*“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.*

*Luke 1:34-38*



## *John the Baptist in the wilderness:*

- Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*
- Produce fruit in keeping with repentance*

### *What does the fruit does John want us to bear?*

- Sharing with those who have less*
- Not collecting more than is required*
- Not extorting money or accusing people falsely*
- Baptizing people with water*
- Warning that someone more powerful than him will come and baptize people with the Holy Spirit and fire*