

The Miracle Birth of John: Turning Around the Hearts of Families

Biblical Hope is the strong and confident expectation, the sure certainty that what God has promised in his Word is true, has occurred, and or will in accordance with God's sure Word.

“In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in God's sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth could not conceive, and both of them were well along in years. When his division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, it happened that he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. At the hour of incense the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and overcome with fear. But the angel said to him: Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people.” (Luke 1:5-17)

Our hearts are prone to wandering. (Luke 1:5)

“Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.” (Mal. 4:5-6)

“For indeed, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and everyone who commits wickedness will become stubble. The coming day will consume them,’ says the Lord of Hosts, ‘not leaving them root or branches.’”
(Mal. 4:1)

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to the place of his baptism, he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.’”
(Matt. 3:7-8)

We must be families with Biblical values.
(Luke 1:5-7.)

They were from a priestly lineage. (Luke 1:5)

They were righteous. (Luke 1:6)

Righteous was used to describe...

“Now suppose a man is righteous and does what is just and right: He follows My statutes and keeps My ordinances, acting faithfully. Such a person is righteous; he will certainly live.’ This is the declaration of the Lord God.” (Ezek. 18:5a, 9)

“But as for you, O man of God, flee from these these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love steadfastness, gentleness.” (1 Tim. 6:1)

They observed the Lord’s commands. (Luke 1:6)

Parental Involvement in the Discipleship of Children

- Nearly 50% never or occasionally prayed with their children (excluding meal time).
- 76% never or occasionally prayed with their spouse.
- 38% never or rarely talk about spiritual values with children.
- 79% never or rarely have family devotional time. (FamilyLife Family Needs Survey)

We can find joy in the middle of chaos.
(Luke 1:13-15)

“Our purpose should be to leverage our children’s lives to advance God’s kingdom so that every tribe, every nation, and every people group gains the opportunity to respond in faith to the rightful King of kings.” -Timothy Paul Jones

God wants to restore the wandering.
(Luke 1:16-17)

“Therefore, the Lord who redeemed Abraham says this about the house of Jacob: Jacob will no longer be ashamed and his face will no longer be pale.” (Isa. 29:22)

“The leaders of the people mislead them,
and those they mislead are swallowed up.”
(Isa. 9:16)