



Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
10:00am

**Luke 1:57-66 The Birth of John the Baptist**  
**THE POWER OF THE HAND OF GOD**

***Introduction:***

- We are on this great journey in the gospel of Luke. Ross & Neville introduce us to the gospel of Luke that Luke decided to write an orderly account for most excellent Theophilus. ***“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:4).*** I believe we are on this journey to know the certainty of the TRUTH. To know CHRIST!
- Luke 1:5-25. The introduction of our passage today. The foretold of the birth of John the Baptist. God is in control indeed HE IS.
- Luke 1:26-38. Commit our lives to Jesus. All in for JESUS
- Luke 1:39-45 God keeps his promise, God has his way
- Last Sunday we listen to Mary’s Song of Praise! “Our worship generated from understanding who our God is”. I believe you are here this morning with a heart of worship knowing who our God is and ready to hear more from the Gospel of Luke and what God has for us this morning.
- This morning we are going to hear: ***THE POWER OF THE HAND OF GOD***
- ***I want to encourage you to make room for God to move and speak to you this morning***
- If you have your Bible with you, turn with me to Luke 1:57-66 as we continue to make our way through the Gospel of Luke.

**Reading:**

Luke 1:57-66 (NIV)

## **The Birth of John the Baptist**

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

<sup>58</sup> ***Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.***

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah,

<sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, ***"No! He is to be called John."***

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.

<sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, ***"His name is John."***

<sup>64</sup> ***Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.***

<sup>65</sup> All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.

<sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" ***For the Lord's hand was with him.***

## **Zechariah & Elizabeth**

- Zechariah – Priest
- Elizabeth – Descendant of Aaron
- Both were righteous in God's eyes (Luke 1:6) – Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandment and regulations.
- Childless

### ***God's promise (Angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah)***

- Elizabeth will bear a child (Luke 1:13-14)
- They are to call him John
- He will be great in the eyes of the Lord
- He will be filled with the Holy Spirit
- He will go on before the Lord – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
- Turn many Israelites to the Lord

### ***Zechariah's Respond***

- Zechariah did not believe God's promise (Luke 1:18)
- Zechariah was unable able to speak for nine months

## 1. The power of God's hand is always at work

### *To fulfil his promise*

#### **God keeps his promises**

*"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me...", (Malachi 3:1)*

*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 call him John". He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, (Luke 1:13)*

#### **Fulfilment of God's promise**

- Elizabeth gave birth to a son (Luke 1:57-58)
- Neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy

#### **Response to God's hand at work:**

*Her neighbours and relatives heard **that the Lord has shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.***

- The root of their joy was in the recognition that this was GOD'S PROVISION. God had done this thing. THIS IS GOD'S DOING!
- It's not just that she had a child but they rejoice in God's provision. *Neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her JOY.*

When we know the power of God's hand is always at work it should give us GREAT JOY we should rejoice that He knows what he is doing and he will bring it to completion.

*Philippians 1:6*

*We always need to see God's hand of provision in whatever has been provided for us.*

*James 1:17*

Paul wrote Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4). Even from prison he rejoice in the Lord as he see God's hand at work.

*Philippians 1:4-5*

- This is the kind of joy that we ought to share as believers in the Lord Jesus. We ought to share joy that rooted in our sense that God has provided. This is God's doing. They rejoiced in God's great mercy, God's goodness and provision.

Mary's Song (Luke 1:46-56)

- Mary rejoice in God
- She knows that it is God's hand at work

Elizabeth:

The power of God's hand turns Elizabeth's humiliation into JOY!

**Application:**

Will you make room for God to work in your life?

Make space for God to move!

Rejoice in knowing that God's hand is always at work and has the power to finish what he started.

Whatever you going through right now, whatever circumstances will you look at how God is at work and find joy in his promises?

## **2. The power of God's hand transform lives (Luke 1:59-66)**

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John"

- Circumcision
- Tradition – Name the baby's after the father or grandfather

Luke 1:13

*"...and you are to call him John"*

### **Zechariah's faith**

All those months of silence God was at work transforming Zechariah's life.

- Growing his faith.
- He display his faith in God's promise: "His name is John"

*John (Jehovah has shown GRACE)*

Power of God's hand – GRACE

- The power of God's hand can set you free (Luke 1:64)
- The power of God's hand turning lives around

The power of God's hand transform Paul's life

Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:10

*All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.*

*(Luke 1:65-66)*

People's heart were filled with awe! In awe of what God has done.

They wondered and reflect on this event with the question of What then is this child is going to be?

Zechariah's Respond: PRAISE GOD

- Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.
- God has transform his unbelieve to believe
- He pour out praises to God and we will listen to Zechariah's song next Sunday

What then is this children is going to be? ***For the HAND OF THE LORD WAS WITH HIM!***

The power of God's hand have a purpose and plan for John the Baptist. His ministry start from a baby. People were filled with awe!

The power of God's hand transform and do wonderous things.

God's hand is a LOVING HAND

***This child is going to point us to another CHILD – Our Lord and Saviour.***

### **What we learn about GOD?**

Our God is a WAY-MAKER, MIRACLE-WORKER and PROMISE-KEEPER

God keeps his promises

The power of God's hand

God's hand is always at work

God's hand can transform lives

### **What do we learn?**

We need to know who our GOD is.

- His power, mighty, goodness, mercy, grace, his provision

When we know who our GOD is, we believe in his promises, we make room for him to work and move in our lives, we allow him to transform our life and grow our faith and we focus on God instead of our circumstances.

The greater the size of our God is the smaller the size of our problems.

- Rejoice in God's provision just like Elizabeth and her relatives and neighbours
- Rooted our joy in God's hand of provision
- Being obedience to God's will
- Praise Him like Zechariah did

### **Closing:**

People reflect on these event (Luke 1:65)

- Let us reflect on this journey in the Gospel of Luke and what God is doing in our lives through this journey.
- We're not yet finish Chapter 1 but God is at work, speaking to us through his Word.
- Fulfilment of God's promise – Foretold of John the Baptist – The birth of John the Baptist.

Is there a promise of God in your life that your feel like letting go or give up because you don't understand or you don't feel like God is working?

Will you make room for God to work and move in your life?

Are you going through a hard circumstances that your find it hard to be joyful? Will you look for ways that you see God's hand at work and rejoice in the Lord.

The joy of the Lord is our strength

- I have the joy of Jesus in me today
- My joy is not depend on my circumstances but on the Lord
- The joy of the Lord is my strength

The power of God's hand is always at work

Romans 8:28



The power of God's hand transforming lives

We get to know John the Baptist today, his mission and God's will in his life. God's plan of redemption.

A child that is going to point us to another CHILD

John 1:29