

God's Double Blessings

Luke 1:5-56

1. Extraordinary announcements

a. The birth of John will be uncommon

- **John** would bring religious revival (turning of hearts) & social changes **to prepare the people for the Messiah's coming**
- **Zechariah** (privileged religious priest) **doubted** (although there were sufficient OT Examples like Sarah & Hannah whose sons played significant roles in God's salvation plan); he got a sign (muteness) as he requested

b. The birth of Jesus will be unheard of

- **Jesus** is the **Son of the Most High**; He will be **King**; He will be **holy**; He will **save** His people from their sins
- **Mary** (common ordinary woman) **accepted** her role in God's plan

John & Jesus **inaugurated a new age & an everlasting kingdom**; they are God's double blessings

2. Extraordinary pronouncements

a. Elizabeth's prophetic words

- The unborn John **recognized** the presence of the Messiah
- Elizabeth (filled with Spirit) testified **Jesus is Lord; God's word will be fulfilled**

b. Mary's rhapsodic words

- Mary responded in **jubilation** (although she might have limited understanding)
- Mary glorified God for **exalting** the **humble** & **humbling** the **exalted**
- Mary thought of people beyond herself to **Israel's condition** to **all people**



Themes:

- (i) **Greatness**: John is great → Jesus is greater
- (ii) **Fulfillment**: The Spirit's work → our praises; Jesus is the long-awaited One throughout history