

LESSON FIVE: THE BIRTH OF ELIJAH, THE WAY-PREPARER
(LUKE 1:5-25, 57-80)

1. Who were the Jews awaiting, based on Malachi 4:5-6? _____
2. When Jesus asked, "Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" what was one of the responses? _____
3. What was Zacharias' role in Israel? _____
4. Do you find any of the evidence for Zacharias possibly being the *legitimate* High Priest to be convincing? _____ If yes, which evidence do you find most compelling? _____

5. Other than their priestly lineage, what do you think (from the text) is the main reason God chose Zacharias and Elizabeth to be the parents of the Forerunner to the Messiah?

6. Why was Zacharias frightened in the temple? _____

7. According to Luke 1:13, what was Zacharias praying for? _____
8. What does the name John mean? _____
9. Why does the angel say there would be joy and gladness? _____

10. What does it mean when someone in the Bible (specifically Luke's writings) is "filled with the Holy Spirit"? _____
11. Of all the promises the angel made to Zacharias about his not-yet-conceived son, which do you think would have been the most impactful to him, and why? _____

12. What caused Zacharias to doubt the message? _____

13. What does *Gabriel* mean? _____
14. What was Gabriel known for in the Old Testament? _____

15. Why was Zacharias made mute until after the child was born and named John? _____

16. What was Elizabeth's response to becoming pregnant? _____

17. What is your opinion about other people trying to name children that aren't theirs? ____

18. Why do you think the people were so against naming him John? _____

19. If you had been present at this event, do you think you would have told other people
about it later? _____

20. What does the term "prophetic past tense" mean, and why is it noteworthy? _____

21. How do we know Zacharias begins his prophecy by looking forward to Jesus? _____

22. Did Zacharias see his son's work as fulfilling prophecy? _____ How do you know? ____

23. Of the things Zacharias says about John in verses 76-79, which is most impressive to
you? _____

24. When it is said John grew "strong in spirit," what does that mean? And how did it help
prepare him for his mission? _____

25. Do you think John could have spent time with the Essenes? _____

26. What things do you think are important to learn from the example of Zacharias? _____

27. Should we have confidence in our prayers? _____ How do we do that? _____
