

# Message Notes

## The Birth of John the Baptist

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – My theatrical debut

### Today's Message

The Gospel of Luke  
The Birth of John the Baptist  
Luke 1:57-66

"She gave birth..."

Luke 1:57-58 (see: v. 1:7, 36, 24-25)

"They came to circumcise the child..."

Luke 1:59a (see: Gen. 17:11-12, Lev. 12:3)

"And they were going to name him..."

Luke 1:59b-63 (see: v. 1:8-14)

Tension!!!

Zechariah speaks!

Luke 1:64 (see: v. 1:18-20, other examples:  
2:10, 20, 5:26, 7:16)

"[They] were filled with awe..."

Luke 65-66 (see: 2:19, 51, 3:15, 5:22)

What then is this child going to be?

The forerunner

John 3:26-30

#1 - He is to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

Luke 1:16-17, 20:6

#2 - He is to prepare the way for Jesus

John 1:6-8, 15, Isaiah 40:3

Hope's role in "preparing the way"

Gospel Application –

Have you heard the message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins? And of the gospel - the grace of Jesus Christ?

In what ways might you/we prepare the way of the Lord?

Luke 1:57-66

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." 62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

John 3:26-30

26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." 27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less."

# GODSPELL





# Prepare Ye, The Way Of The Lord Lyrics



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Album: Godspell

[JOHN THE BAPTIST]

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

[ALL]

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

## Top G songs

1. Be
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4. Pre
5. By
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8. Ble
9. Tu
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30
11. Le
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13. W

The Gospel of  
**LUKE**





**Today's Message:**  
*The Birth of John the Baptist*  
Luke 1:57-66

## Luke 1:57-66

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<sup>65</sup> All the neighbors 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.

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<sup>7</sup> But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

## Luke 1:57-66

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

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<sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

## Luke 1:57-66

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>25</sup> “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

ὄνειδος

**ill-fame, reproach, disgrace**

**referring to sterility (see: Gen. 30:23)**

ὄνειδος

ill-fame, reproach, disgrace

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## Genesis 17:11-12

<sup>11</sup> You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup> He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised.

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The simplicity with which we expect the narration of such routine activity to proceed is interrupted by a struggle between Elizabeth and her neighbors and friends, between apparent societal norms and obedience to the angel's words. Perhaps following the tradition in Genesis of naming children according to their significance, Elizabeth opposes her neighbors and relatives, insisting that the child will be called "John" (= "Yahweh has shown favor").

On the face of it, nothing unusual resides in the mother's having the leading role in the naming of her child... What we have before us to this juncture is the command of Gabriel to Zechariah, raising the narrative *possibility* of the child's being named "John," followed by Elizabeth's independent witness to this name, raising that possibility to a *probability*. The opposition of the relatives and neighbors presents itself as an obstacle to Zechariah's obedience and raises the suspense of the narrative. ~Joel Green, NICNT, Luke



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## Luke 1:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” <sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

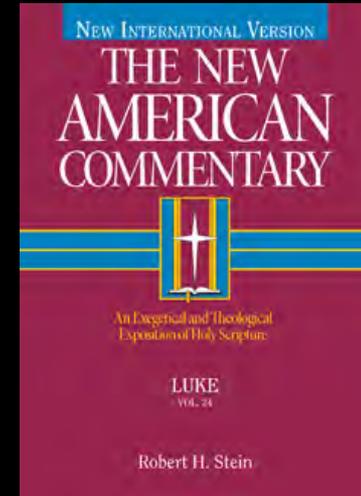
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Here the story of the childhood of the great pioneer of Christ is briefly sketched out; in it all, and through it all, there was one guiding hand – the Lord's. The expression, "hand of the Lord," was peculiarly a Hebrew thought – one of the vivid anthropomorphic idioms which, as has been aptly remarked, they could use more boldly than other nations, because they had clearer thoughts of God as not made after the similitude of men. ~Robert H. Stein, NAC



“What then is this child going to be?”



# Prepare Ye, The Way Of The Lord Lyrics



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Album: Godspell

[JOHN THE BAPTIST]

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

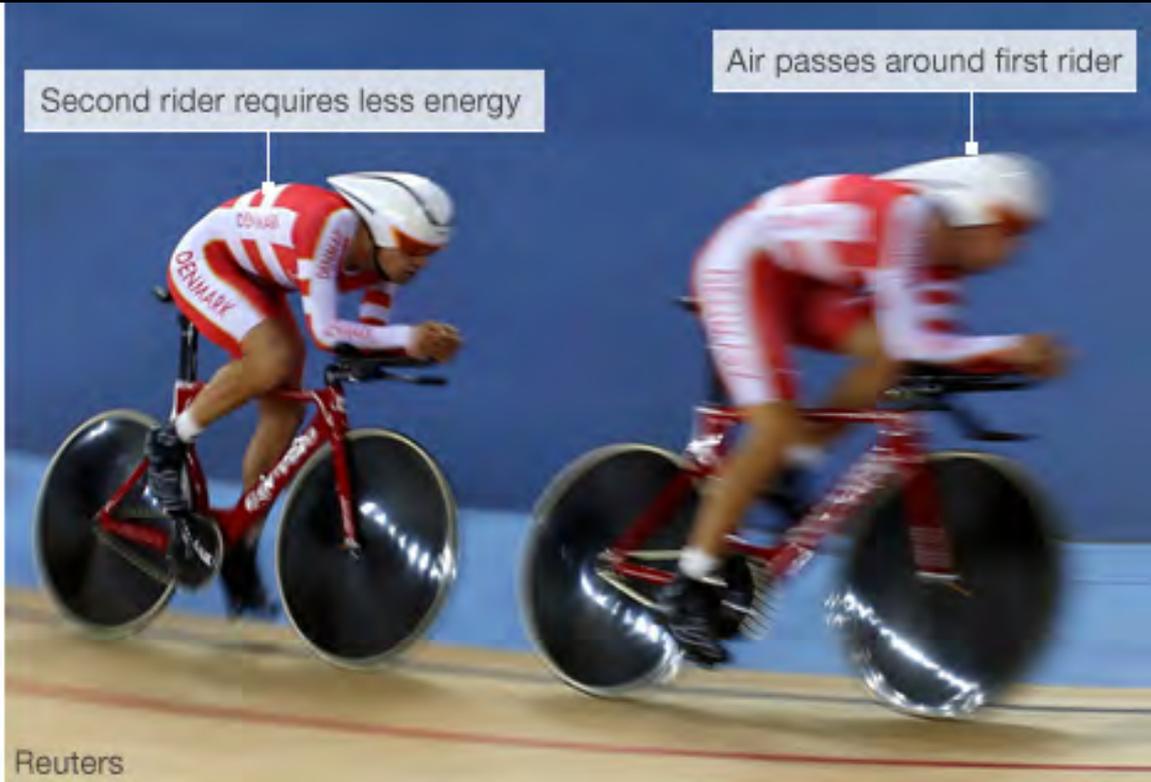
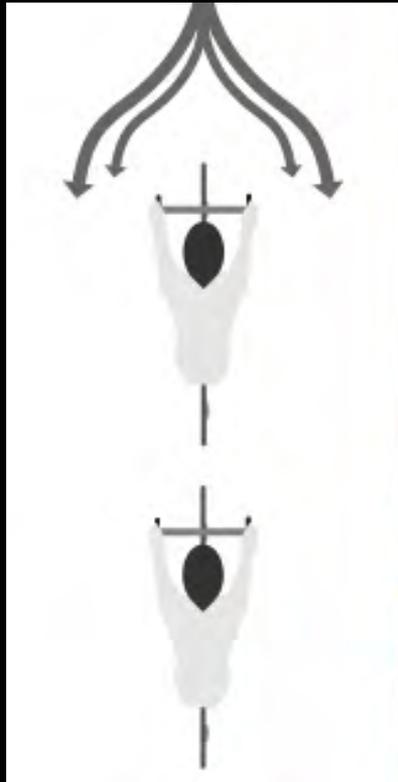
[ALL]

Prepare ye, the way of the Lord

## Top G songs

1. Be
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5. By
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8. Ble
9. Tu
10. Or  
30
11. Le
12. Ala
13. W

# John the Forerunner



## John 3:26-30

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**#1 – Baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins**

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## Mark 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

# #1 – Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

## Matthew 3:7-8

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

John's dress and lifestyle were a protest against the godlessness and self-serving materialism of his day — a call to separate oneself from the surrounding sinful culture, to repent, and to live a life focused upon God.

Kent Hughes  
Luke: That you may know the truth  
Preaching the Word



## **#2 – Prepare the way for Jesus**

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### John 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

## #2 – Prepare the way for Jesus

### John 1:19–23

<sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

## #2 – Prepare the way for Jesus

### Isaiah 40:1-5

1 Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

## #2 – Prepare the way for Jesus

### Isaiah 40:1-5

3 A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God...

5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

## John 1:29-31

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

# Gospel of Luke Application:

*Have you heard the message of repentance?*

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*And of the gospel – the grace of Jesus Christ?*

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*In what ways might you/we prepare the way  
of the Lord?*

The Gospel of  
**LUKE**