

The Case for Christ: Lesson 2
Confirmation of God's Promise (Part1)

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



CHECK IN QUESTION: On which day did/does your family open presents; December 24th or 25th?

Introduction: At the conclusion of the previous lesson, students understood the prophecy regarding the Messiah. The beginning of God’s plan to deliver (save) mankind from the penalty of sin (death) was clearly implied beginning as early as Genesis 3: 15. Further, the previous lesson traced God’s plan to Abram as the “Father of Many” (Abraham) through which Jesus’ ancestral lineage would come.

In the following lesson, students will be able to further explain that Jesus is the Messiah (God’s promised deliverer). The goal of this lesson is to identify how God proves to us His words are true regarding Jesus being the Christ (anointed one of God) through the birth narrative of John.

➤ Part 1: John’s Birth: God’s message about a messenger!

Luke 1: 5-23

Our passage regarding Elizabeth is important to understanding the ministry of John and Jesus. Zacharias and Elizabeth have been told by an angel that they are to have a child though they like Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17: 15-17) they are past childbearing ages. The angel, Gabriel, informs Zacharias of the child’s name, but most importantly of his purpose. In Luke 1: 17 we are informed as to what John will do.

1. What was John’s primary purpose?



Notice, even though the angel was delivering a message that Zacharias's prayer had been heard, the expectation from this family was to utilize what they had been given for God's Kingdom.

James 4: 2-3

²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

When we ask of God, we must know that His answer always comes with an expectation that we see Him in the answer (yes, no, or not now). When have you asked God for something and had no intent on utilizing His yes as a way to acknowledge Him?

➤ Mary and Elizabeth: God's Confirmation of His Word

Luke 2: 39-45

When Elizabeth finds out she is pregnant, it occurs six months before Mary is informed of her pregnancy. As Mary and Elizabeth are related, this makes Jesus and John related as well. Remember, John's purpose was to provide news to people that Jesus is the Messiah. How does he accomplish this task?

Luke 1: 41 Upon hearing the greeting of Mary; the babe leaped in her womb.

What is the result of John leaping in Elizabeth's womb when Mary, who is pregnant with Jesus, enters the house?

Notice the pattern that God sets up.

The Word of God is spoken (vs. 13,19, 30-31)

+ A person hears (vs. 18, 38)

+ Confirmation happens (vs. 41)

= Clarity and Joy Occurs when the Word accepted (vs. 45)

This pattern of the message about Jesus Christ is the pattern through which we all come to receive salvation.



Group Activity! Can you find the pattern?

Luke 2: 8-20

Action in Luke 2: 8-20	Verses Shown
The Word of God is spoken	
A person hears	
Confirmation happens	
Clarity and Joy Occurs when the Word is accepted	

Try It on Your Own

Matthew 2: 1-12

Action in Matthew 2: 1-12	Verses Shown
The Word of God is spoken (tricky for this one)	
A person hears	
Confirmation happens	
Clarity and Joy Occurs when the Word is accepted	

Questions to consider:

1. Since this is God's pattern for our understanding, how have you seen this happen in your own life?
2. John's role is the same as our role. We are to be messengers for Jesus. How have you been doing in your role lately?
3. What information do you need to help you better explain who Jesus is as a savior?

Conclusion: God did not send Jesus to us as a secretive savior. The scriptures which foretell of His appearance in history clearly identify a savior who will fulfill all scripture. Today's lesson was intended for you and me to understand that God always confirms what He has said in His word.