

PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Pt. 1 - "Preparing the Way"

Pastor Vernie Fletcher

December 4th, 2011

The Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:5-25 (NIV)

[5] In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

[6] Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

[7] But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

[8] Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God...

[18] Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

[19] The angel answered, "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.

[20] 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 proper time."

[21] Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.

[24] After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

[25] "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."