

# “*He Will*”

Scripture Reading: LUKE 1:5-17

- ) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7-11.** Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 12.** Today I want to stay in the Birth Narrative texts and speak about Zachariah and the birth of his son JTB. I have titled today’s message “*He Will*” (5x – 1:14-17).
- ) **SLIDE 13.** The birth of the Christ was prophesied. Here are a few of the prophecies about the Christ and His birth.
- ) Why do I bring this up? Because there is something very powerful about the prophetic Word of God. There is something very powerful about knowing that God “*will*” do something.
- ) **SLIDE 14.** I just read 7 prophecies about the Christ. The Christ will. The Christ will. The Christ will. Seven times. ISAIAH 55:11. God will. His Word will. That is both powerful and comforting.
- ) Where’s the power? The power is in sovereignty of God. His Word will accomplish what He desires. God has total control. He is on the throne.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** Where’s the comfort? The comfort is in the confidence we have in the sovereignty of God. In these 7 prophecies, we see the power of God’s sovereign plan (the Christ will) with the comfort of knowing it will come about (a Savior will come to us).
- ) The God who wrote the Scriptures rules over history. And when He makes a promise, He is faithful to His Word.
- ) But when we get to this period of time, the time of the births of JTB and the Christ which, for simplicity sake, is the year zero, we know this about God’s revelation. He has been silent.

- ) God had not spoken through a prophet in over 400 years. The last prophet was Malachi. The last miracle recorded was 500 years prior with Daniel the prophet and his encounters in the land of Babylon. And the last angelic visit was also 500 years prior when an angel appeared in the midst of the three friends in the fiery furnace again in the book of Daniel. God had been silent. And now He is about to speak.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** In LUKE 1:13-17, an angel of the Lord is bringing the prophetic word to Zachariah. The angel declares 9 “*will*” statements. These prophecies will happen. Read.
- ) When God, in His Word, says something will happen, that something will happen. So our Birth Narrative begins with 9 prophecies from God as declared by the angel Gabriel (v19) about the birth of the forerunner of the Christ, John the Baptist. This morning I want to focus in on 4 of these prophecies.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** #1. LUKE 1:15. Many people may look great or even be great in the sight of men. We know that at the human level many great men and women have done many great things. But what does it mean to be “*great*” in the sight of the Lord?
- ) **SLIDE 18** MATT 11:11. It’s good to have the testimony of Jesus, the Son of God, to tell everyone that you are great.
- ) But let’s dig a little deeper. What did JTB do to make himself great? First. He didn’t make himself great. God made him great. And I believe there are three things he did that stand out as qualifying for greatness.
- ) **SLIDE 19.** MATTHEW 3:11-12.
- ) **SLIDE 20.** John the Baptist led a great **CAUSE**. He pointed people to the Christ. He got people to think inwardly about their sin, about repentance. And we know that repentance is a necessary response to the gospel truths.
- ) **SLIDE 21.** MATTHEW 3:7-10.

- ) **SLIDE 22.** John the Baptist displayed great **CONVICTIONS.** He always spoke truthfully. Imagine calling the religious leaders of his day a brood of vipers. And preachers today are afraid to call sin a sin for fear of offending someone. Then they and their money go away. Can't have that. JTB was not PC.
- ) **SLIDE 23.** JOHN 3:28-30.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** John the Baptist had great **HUMILITY.** He always put Christ ahead of himself. It's tough to not allow self to be top priority. And that's why Jesus said to love our neighbor as ourself because we really do love ourselves.
- ) What made JTB great in the eyes of the Lord? He led a great cause. He displayed great convictions. He had great humility. Why? Because He will. The angel of the Lord said so.
- ) **SLIDE 25.** #2. LUKE 1:15. You either have a God-centered theology and you believe in the complete sovereignty of God, or you have a man-centered theology and believe that man acts and God reacts.
- ) Those with a man-centered theology will either really struggle with this passage or they will grossly misinterpret this passage.
- ) Those with a man-centered theology will say, "*Well God looked down through the corridors of time and saw what JTB would do later on so He decided to fill JTB with the Holy Spirit before he was born.*" That's not good theology. Actually that's twisting and distorting the Scriptures.
- ) **SLIDE 26.** But this is nothing new. JEREMIAH 1:4-5.
- ) I like seeing the power in the sovereignty of God. Let's hold fast to a God-centered theology. What do the Scriptures say? Those who understand God's sovereignty would simply say that John the Baptist was saved before he was born. How can this be? He didn't respond to an altar call and he didn't say the sinner's prayer. Isn't that what saves a person? How can this be? Because He will. The angel of the Lord said so.

- ) **SLIDE 27.** #3. LUKE 1:16. As we read through the 4 gospels there is no doubt that most of the Jewish leaders were not leading anyone to God. They were leading people into a salvation by works and placing more emphasis on the traditions of men than on the Mosaic Law. These leaders were blind guides. And when the blind follow the blind they both fall into the pit.
- ) But along comes JTB and he is preaching repentance and confession of sin—and then to bear fruit in keeping with that repentance. He is telling people to examine their inward heart condition and not their external works condition. He is telling people there is One more powerful than he who is to soon come on the scene because the kingdom of heaven is near.
- ) And the people were responding. The people of Israel were coming back to the true God. Why? Because He will. The angel of the Lord said so.
- ) **SLIDE 28.** #4. LUKE 1:17. Let's look at some OT prophecies.
- ) **SLIDE 29.** MALACHI 3:1. The final book of the OT tells us that God will send a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord.
- ) **SLIDE 30.** ISAIAH 40:3. This tells us that there will be a voice calling in the desert to prepare the way for the Lord; to make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
- ) **SLIDE 31.** MALACHI 4:5-6. Someone in the spirit of Elijah will be this messenger.
- ) **SLIDE 32.** MATT 11:12-15. No, JTB is not a reincarnation of Elijah. He is what theologians call an Elijah type. Jesus confirms that JTB is the Elijah prophesied by Malachi.
- ) And God does send a voice in the desert telling people to prepare for the coming of the Christ. And his name is JTB. And God does send the Elijah before the coming of the Lord. And JTB is this Elijah. Why all this. Because He will. The angel of the Lord said so. These prophecies will come true.

- ) **SLIDE 33.** The angel Gabriel gives Zachariah 9 separate prophecies—messages from God Himself. Read.
- ) JTB will be the forerunner of the Christ. Why? Because He will. The angel of the Lord said so.
- ) For us today we have the wonderful opportunity of reading in His Word that not only God will send the Christ, the Messiah, a Savior, One who will save His people from their sins, but that He has done as He has promised.
- ) And the Word of God says He will send Jesus Christ back again in a second coming. I promise you, if God said He will, then He will.
- ) The power of the sovereignty of God. The comfort in the confidence of knowing He will.

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