

Exegetical Notes, Luke 1:57-66
“Your Prayers Have Been Answered!”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

Luke 1:57-66

Verse 57-58

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

- See exegetical notes for Luke 1:5-25. These notes explain the scripture which deals with the extraordinary circumstances of the conception of John the Baptist.
- People of that time believed that being barren, as were Elizabeth and her husband, was a sign of God’s disfavor. The child’s birth removed any of those concerns. In those times barrenness was always assumed to be the woman’s fault. In this case, the birth of the baby brought joy to her for the shame was lifted.

Verse 59-63

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.” They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”

- See verse 14 and notes. The name means, “YHWH is gracious.”
- Normally, the first born male would have been given his father’s name. Elizabeth’s instructions concerning the name were a little scandalous since there were no males in her family or Zechariah’s family who had the name John. People would have raised their eyebrows and wondered whose name Elizabeth was giving to this child.
- They turned to Zechariah to settle the matter. They “made signs to him,” apparently assuming that because he could not speak, he could not hear.

Using a clay writing tablet, he confirmed Elizabeth's instructions. The boy was to be called John. This astonished the people because they did not know the angel's instructions and it violated customs.

Verse 64-66

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

- Because Zechariah was obedient to Gabriel's command, the curse pronounced on his unbelief was lifted. He could again speak. See verses 18-20.
- The story about these events spread throughout the region and caused people to wonder what God was up to and about who this child was in the plan of God.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Your Prayers Have Been Answered*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)