

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST FORETOLD

January 7, 1912

Luke 1 : 5-23—*Memory Verses, 15, 16.

Golden Text—Without faith it is impossible to please him.—Hebrews 11 : 6.

5 There was in the days of Her'od, the king of Judæ'a, a certain priest named Zachari'as, of the course of Abi'a : and his wife ~~was~~ of the daughters of Aa'ron, and her name ~~was~~ Elis'abeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child, because that Elis'abeth was barren, and they both were ~~now~~ well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord,

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zachari'as saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zachari'as : for thy prayer is heard ; and thy wife Elis'abeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness ; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink ; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

16 And many of the children of Is'rael shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'as, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the just ; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just ; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zachari'as said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this ? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Ga'briel, that stand in the presence of God ; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

21 And the people waited for Zachari'as, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them : and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple : for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In our Lesson of two weeks ago we read how one of God's prophets told his people, the Jews, that the Messiah as Saviour would surely come.

Now, many, many years afterwards, when Herod was the king in Judah, there lived in that land a priest named Zacharias. His wife's name was Elizabeth. They were both old, and all their lives they had served God faithfully and kept His commandments. But God had never given them a child.

One day it was Zacharias' turn to burn incense at the hour of prayer on the golden altar in the temple. So, while the people in great crowds prayed in the outer court of the

temple, Zacharias went alone into the Holy Place to burn incense.

There, beside the altar, he saw standing a beautiful angel. Zacharias was afraid, but the angel said, "Do not fear, Zacharias; it is good news I bring you. God has heard your prayers, and is going to send to you and your wife Elizabeth a son whom you shall call John. He is not to drink wine nor any strong drink, and he will be filled with God's Holy Spirit from the time he is born. He will bring to you and to all people much joy and gladness, for he is to be God's messenger to His people Israel, to tell them of the Sav-

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.