

Jehovah's Gift

Description

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Luke 1:57-66

Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist.

What do they have in common?

All these men were born to barren women, wives who longed for children, but could not conceive until God intervened.

Among the matriarchs, Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel were sterile. Yet by the grace of God the lineage of Abraham was preserved.

Luke connects the birth of both John and Jesus with the Bible history of barren women giving birth. Elizabeth had been childless for decades before John came along. Jesus was born of a pure woman "par excellence"—a virgin. Thus, Jesus stands as the culmination of a long history of barren women having great sons.

Who can know the joy of a wife, once barren, but at last a mother? The family of Elizabeth and Zechariah knew, so they gathered for a party. Grandfathers, uncles, brothers hoped the child would be named after them. But mother Elizabeth stubbornly refused to name the boy after anyone in the family.

Rather, she insisted that the boy be named "Jehovah's Gift." That's what the name "John" means.

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Date Created

2012/12/10