

A LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS

1. IN THE FULNESS OF TIME.
 1. Everyone's hope was in the coming Messiah.
 2. Every young girl desired to be the virgin to bring forth the Messiah.
 3. The hope and consolation of Israel was at hand.

2. THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.
 1. Zacharias and Elizabeth desire a child.
 1. Angel appeared at right side of altar--Zacharias feared.
 2. Fear not, for thy prayer is heard--shall call his name John.
 3. Thou shalt have joy and gladness, and many shall rejoice at his birth.
 4. The child shall be great in the sight of the Lord.
 5. Filled with Holy Ghost from his mother's womb.
 6. Many of children of Israel shall turn to the Lord their God.
 7. Shall go in power of Elijah
 1. Turn hearts of fathers to the children.
 2. Turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.
 3. To make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
 2. How shall I know this? (How do I know you're telling me the truth? Prove to me this is right).
 1. I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God and am sent to shew thee these glad tidings.
 2. You shall be dumb and not able to speak. People thought he had a vision.
 3. On the eighth day, at John's circumcision, they called his name Zacharias after his father. (Tradition).
 1. Zacharias writes the name John on a writing table.
 2. Mouth was opened.
 4. Zacharias filled with the Holy Ghost and prophesied.
 1. (Luke 1:68 KJV) *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,*
 1. And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
 2. That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,
 3. That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
 2. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest:
 1. for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
 2. To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of

their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

3. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
4. to guide our feet into the way of peace.

3. GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY.

1. Hail thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women.
2. Mary was troubled and wondered what manner salutation this should be.
3. Fear not Mary, thou hast found favor with the Lord.
4. You shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son.
 1. Shall call his name JESUS.
 2. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.
 3. Shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; of his kingdom there shall be no end.
5. How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
6. The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
7. Mary: "Be it unto me according to thy word."

4. MARY GOES TO ELIZABETH'S HOUSE.

1. The baby leaped inside Elizabeth's womb.
2. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.
3. Elizabeth began to speak: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
4. Mary begins to prophesy: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. he hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy. As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever."