

CHRISTMAS STORIES | THE BIRTH BEFORE THE BIRTH JOHN THE BAPTIST

We are beginning a new series called Christmas Stories. We all know that Christmas is about our Lord Jesus Christ's birth, and rightfully so. His name is above all names and every knee will bow before Him. We have new life and life eternal in Him and there is no other name by which men can be saved. This season, we will look at the stories regarding His birth. There is another birth leading up to Jesus' birth that merits a closer look. It was the birth of a long-awaited prophet who lived an extraordinary life, exalted Jesus, died a disgraceful death, and was honored by Jesus. John the Baptist was an unexpected pregnancy by his parents, but a long-awaited birth by the nation of Israel. His birth was promised hundreds of years prior. His unique life paved the way for the Messiah. As we prepare for Christmas, we ask, who was John the Baptist?

1. John was a man of destiny. (Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 4:5)
2. John's birth was unexpected yet expected (Mark 1:1-3, Luke 1:5-25).
3. John's life was unique (Mark 1:4-6).
4. John's message was powerful (Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:7-17).
5. John's courage was uncompromising (Luke 3:18-20, Mark 6:14-29).
6. John's Messiah was worth his very life (John 1:29-34, 3:25-30).