



## God's Grand Story—The New Testament

### *The Key to Greatness*

January 21, 2024

#### **We introduce the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist.**

*Luke 1:7 — “But they (Zacharias and Elizabeth) had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.”*

Prophesied by an angel to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist — Luke 1:15–17

Luke 1:41–42, 44

*Matthew 11:11 — “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist...”*

What made John the Baptist so great? John 1:6–8, 19–28

John 1:20–21 — John the Baptist knew who he wasn't.

*Who are you then? John 1:8 He was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light.*

All of us are simply witnesses to the light, pointing to Jesus.

John 1:23 — It isn't about me, it is all about Him.

#### **John the Baptist was great because the focus of his life was pointing others to Jesus. He was humble.** John 1:35–37

How did Christ ransom us? 1 Peter 1:18–20

Luke 1:30–35

Jesus was holy—He was without sin. 1 Peter 2:22; cf. Hebrews 4:15; Romans 8:3

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”? Meant two shocking things for the Jews—and to us still today.

**First, it meant that the God-man would die like a lamb dies—be slaughtered** (see the Greek sphazō in Revelation 5:6, 9, 12; 13:8).

**Second, it meant that the whole world would benefit from this and not just Jews.**

John 1:43–45

Jesus is the perfect match for all in your sphere, and you get the great honor of being a matchmaker.

#### **Remember the following things:**

1. Believe that Jesus is the perfect match for our friends and relatives.
2. Focus on the person of Jesus and not on the wedding ceremony.
3. Let others in close enough to observe our own relationship with Jesus.

Be a matchmaker. Let God do the persuading. Just be available to be used by God once they are listening.