



FOR UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

Throughout the Scriptures, men and women have trusted God for the birth of a child. Often, when natural circumstances dictated that this was impossible, our great and mighty God supernaturally provided heirs of promise. Beyond human expectations, a child was given!

Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, was one such child. When Abraham was seventy-five years of age, God promised him that he would be a great nation. God then directed him to leave his home and move to a new land. He said, "Unto thy seed have I given this land."¹ This instruction was impossible at the time because Abraham had no heirs. Yet it was God's plan!

However, as time passed without the birth of a child, Abraham and Sarah decided if Abraham fathered a child by Sarah's handmaid Hagar, it would be God's will. But, it was not! God spoke saying, "I will bless her [Sarah], and give thee a son also of her."² This was God's decree. Though Abraham was one hundred

years old and Sarah was ninety, God's promise was fulfilled!

SAMUEL

The birth of the prophet Samuel is another wonderful example of divine intervention. Yearly, his mother Hannah and her husband Elkanah went to the temple to worship God.



Here, Hannah poured out her heart to God in deepest grief because she did not have a child. Eli, the priest, noted her sorrow, and said, "The God of Israel grant thee thy petition."³

After God answered Hannah's prayer, she brought her young son, Samuel, to Eli to serve in the temple. I love her words of faith. She said, "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him."⁴

Oh, what a wonderful God! Instead of deep sorrow, Hannah's heart was filled with joy.⁵

JOHN THE BAPTIST

The birth of John the Baptist gives us one more, great example of divine blessing and answered prayer. One day, as his father, Zacharias, was burning incense in the temple an angel appeared saying, "Thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son."⁶ Zacharias, however, doubted this glorious news and argued saying, "I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years."⁷ But Zacharias's apprehension didn't change God's plan! Unto them a son was given!

JESUS

Isaac, Samuel and John the Baptist were born after the hand of the Lord – the very power of heaven – supernaturally intervened, turning man's loss into great gain. Yet, there is a supernatural birth far grander than these three. It is the birth of Jesus Christ, the very Son of God.

Jesus was born, not of natural generation, not because God blessed a husband and wife as the preceding cases, but because one person, Mary, believed the promise of heaven. When the angel spoke to her, "Thou shalt ... bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS,"⁸ she responded, "Be it unto me according to thy word."⁹ The prophet Isaiah explains this word from God saying, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son."¹⁰ Although Mary did not understand how this could happen, she submitted herself to God, magnifying Him as God her Savior.¹¹

This promise is reiterated throughout God's Word. The angel's words to Joseph introduced Jesus as Savior, saying He would save his people from their sins. When Simeon

saw the baby Jesus in the temple, he spoke of God's salvation, and at the same time, Anna, a prophetess, spoke of God's redemptive plan.¹² Later, John the Baptist repeated this message, declaring that Jesus would take away the sin of



the world.¹³ Then, on the Day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter urged all men to call on the name of the Lord and be saved.¹⁴

God's message is clear. Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem is God's Son, our Savior. Therefore, as we celebrate Christmas, we look far beyond the glorious birth of our Lord to His death for sin. Past the bright and shining star over the manger and the host of angels, we view Calvary. Then we stand at the empty tomb and hear the voice of the angel declare, "He is risen."¹⁵

Through Him, we triumph! Because of His sacrifice, Satan has been defeated and we are NOW the Sons of God.¹⁶ Today, as we look heavenward we see Jesus, our King, seated at His Father's right hand, and we declare He is coming soon. Yes, He came to a manger. Yes, He died on the cross. Yes, He rose in victory, and certainly, He comes again for His people. What a glorious day! What a celebration!

¹Ge 15:18 ²Ge 17:16 ³1Sa 1:17 ⁴1Sa 1:27 ⁵1Sa 2:1 ⁶Lk 1:13 ⁷Lk 1:18 ⁸Lk 1:31 ⁹Lk 1:38 ¹⁰Is 7:14 ¹¹Lk 1:47 ¹²Lk 2:24; Lk 2:38 ¹³Jn 1:29 ¹⁴Act 2:21 ¹⁵Lk 24:6; Mk 16:6 ¹⁶1Jn 3:1-2

