

Parallels Between John the Baptist and Jesus

In Luke 1—2

John the Baptist		Jesus
...there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth ... ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. (1:5-7)	Parents introduced	... ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. (1:27)
And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. (1:11)	Angelic messenger	²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin... (1:26)
¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah..." (1:12-13a)	Urges not to fear	²⁹ But she was greatly troubled ... ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary..." (1:29a, 30a)
"...for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." (1:13b)	Announcement of miraculous birth	"...for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (1:30b-31)
¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord ... ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah ... to make ready for the Lord a people prepared. (1:15-17)	Mission of the child	³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (1:32-33)
¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news." (1:18-19)	Expression of disbelief	³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (1:34-35)

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. (1:57) And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. (1:58)	<i>Birth of baby</i> <i>Rejoicing at birth</i>	And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. (2:6) ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field ... ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them ... ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (2:8-11, 13-15)
And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. (1:59a) And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” (1:59b-60)	<i>Child is circumcised</i> <i>and named</i>	And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised... (2:21a) ...he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (2:21b)
⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying . . . ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (1:67, 76-79)	<i>Prophecy offered concerning the child</i>	²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon ... ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple ... ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said ... ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ... “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” (2:25-35)
And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel. (1:80)	<i>Child grows and matures</i>	And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (2:40) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (2:52)