

#1339 America as Media-Persia, II – The 6-month change: Because John the Baptist’s father, Zacharias, was connected to the Jewish Temple, the Lord designed that 6-month date changes be particularly associated with the theme of a second (but counterfeit) Media-Persia, and the rebuilding of the Temple

Zacharias was the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:13; 3:2). He was a priest of the course of Abijah (Luke 1:5), one of the twenty-four courses into which – from the time of the Chronicler at least (1 Chronicles 24:7-18) – the families of the priests that had returned from Babylon were divided. The course of Abijah was the eighth of these courses, and had now been brought up for the week’s service in the temple. The lot for that particular day’s service had fallen to the house of Zacharias, and to Zacharias himself the duty of offering incense in the Holy Place. While performing this service, he had a vision, and the angel of the Lord announced that his aged wife would have a son, who should be called John, and who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. Zacharias was struck dumb after asking for a sign, and recovered his speech only after naming the child John at his circumcision.

Luke 1:5-13 (KJV) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, A CERTAIN PRIEST NAMED ZACHARIAS, of the course of Abia [Abijah]: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest’s office before God in the order of his course,

9 According to the custom of the priest’s office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.



Zacharias and the angel

Key Understanding: *The 6-month change is connected with the theme of the temple.* Because John the Baptist's father, Zacharias, was connected to the Jewish Temple, the Lord designed that 6-month date changes be particularly associated with the theme of a *second* (but *counterfeit*) Media-Persia, and the rebuilding of the Temple.

[One of these 6-month date changes, or equivalencies, that is entwined with the theme of a *second* Media-Persia is that the regime of Mohammed Reza Shah, the Shah of Iran, fell on January 16, 1979, while exactly 6 months later, on July 16, 1979, the Saddam Hussein-led regime arose in Iraq.]

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