

Handout 1: Luke Lesson 3

Each Person of the Holy Trinity has a personal name except God the Holy Spirit. The Church Fathers saw the four major roles in Genesis 24 (the just father, the beloved son and bridegroom, the unnamed servant and the virgin bride) as a biblical “type” of the Most Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and Mary’s symbolic role as Virgin Bride of Christ/ the New Covenant Church:

Role	Genesis 24	The Trinity and Mary/the Church
Just Father	Abraham	Yahweh, God the Father
Beloved Son and bridegroom	Isaac	Jesus, God the Son
Servant	Unnamed Servant	God the Holy Spirit
the virgin bride	Rebekah	Mary/the Church

In giving birth to Jesus it is the Church’s teaching that Mary retained her virginity: ... *In fact, Christ’s birth “did not diminish his mother’s virginal integrity but sanctified it.” And so the liturgy of the Church celebrates Mary as Aeiparthenos, the “Ever-Virgin”* (CCC 499, quoting from *Lumen gentium*, 56).

When Lk 1:72-73 is translated from the Greek back into Hebrew, each of the Hebrew root words for the names of Zechariah, John and Elizabeth are present in the translated text:

...to show **mercy** [*hanan*] to our fathers = Yehohanan (Yohanan)/John
 And to be mindful [to **remember** = *zekar/zakar*] his holy covenant = Zekaryah/Zechariah
 And of the **oath** [*seba*] he swore to Abraham our father ... = Eliseba/Elizabeth

The continuing links between St. Luke’s birth narratives of John and Jesus:

John’s Birth	Jesus’ birth
As prophesied John was born: <i>The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son</i> (Lk 1:57).	As prophesied Jesus was born: ... <i>the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born</i> (Lk 2:6).
There was joy over the birth (Lk 1:58).	There was joy over the birth (Lk 2:13-18).
John was circumcised and named on the 8 th day (Lk 1:59-60).	Jesus was circumcised and named on the 8 th day (Lk 2:21).
Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Zechariah spoke praise, thanksgiving and prophecy in the Benedictus (Lk 1:67-79).	Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Simeon spoke praise and prophecy in the Nunc dimittis (2:29-32) and Anna thanked God (Lk 2:36-38).
John’s birth story concludes with the assurance that God’s hand was upon the child: ... <i>the child grew up and his spirit grew strong</i> (Lk 1:80).	Jesus’ birth story concludes with the assurance that God’s hand was upon the child: <i>And as the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was with him</i> (Lk 2:40).

**ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH
FULFILLED IN JESUS OF NAZARETH**

THE PROPHECY	THE FULFILLMENT
The Messiah:	Jesus of Nazareth:
Will be born of a virgin (Is 7:14)	Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary (Mt 1:18-23; Lk 1:26-31)
Will have a Galilean ministry (Is 9:1,2)	His ministry began in the Galilee (Mt 4:13-16)
Will be an heir to the throne of David (Is 9:5-6/6-7; 11:1, 10)	He was given the throne of His ancestor King David (Lk 1:32, 33; Acts 2:29-36)
Will have His way prepared (Is 40:3-5)	His ministry was announced by John the Baptist (Jn 1:19-28)
Will be spat on and beaten (Is 50:6)	Jesus was spat on and beaten in His trial by the Jewish Court (Mt 26:67; Mk 10:34 Jesus prophesied; Lk 22:63-65)
Will be exalted (Is 52:13)	He was exalted by God (Phil 2:9, 10)
Will be disfigured by suffering (Is 52:14; 53:2)	He was scourged and beaten by Roman soldiers (Mk 15:15-19)
Will make blood atonement for our sins (Is 53:5, 12)	Jesus shed His blood to atone for our sins (Mt 26:28; Mk 15:28; Lk 22:37; Rom 4:25; Heb 9:18-28; 12:24; 1Pt 1:2; 2:24)
Will be widely rejected (Is 53:1, 3)	Was not accepted by many (Jn 12:37, 38)
Will bear our sins and sorrows (Is 53:4, 5)	He died because of our sins (Rom 4:25; 1Pt 2:24, 25)
Will be our substitute (Is 53:6, 8)	He died in our place (Rom 5:6, 8; 2 Cor 5:21)
Will voluntarily accept our guilt and punishment for sin (Is 53:7, 8)	Jesus took on our sins in His self-sacrificial death (Jn 1:29; Rom 6:10; 2 Cor 5:21)
Gentiles will seek Him (Is 11:10)	Gentiles came to Jesus (Mt 15:22; Jn 12:20, 21)
Will be silent before His accusers (Is 53:7)	He was silent before Herod Agrippa and his court (Lk 23:9)
Will save us who believe in Him (Is 53:12)	He provided salvation for all who believe in Him (Jn 3:16; Acts 16:31)
Will die with transgressors (Is 53:12)	Jesus died with two criminals (Mk 15:27, 28; Lk 22:37; Jn 19:32-35)
Will heal the brokenhearted (Is 61:1, 2)	He healed the brokenhearted (Lk 4:18, 19)
God's Spirit will rest on Him (Is 11:2)	The Spirit of God descended on Jesus (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:22; 4:1)
Will be buried in a rich man's tomb (Is 53:9)	He was buried in the tomb of Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea (Mt 27:57-60; Jn 19:38-42)
He will judge the earth with righteousness (Is 11:4, 5)	Jesus was given authority to judge (Jn 5:27; Lk 19:22; 2 Tim 4:1,8)