

The Arrival of King Messiah

Historically, **Luke** begins his book before the other three Gospels. Heaven had been silent for over four hundred years when the angel Gabriel pierced the darkness of this world at the golden altar of incense in the Temple to announce the birth of the forerunner of the **Messiah**, John the Baptist, to an elderly priest named Zechariah.

Christ is the English translation, and **Messiah** is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew title **Meshiach**, meaning *anointed One*. It was used specifically of **the Deliverer** anticipated in the Jewish world who would be **God's Agent** in fulfilling prophecies of the TaNaKh such as **Genesis 49:10**; **Psalm 2** and **110**; **Isaiah 9:1-7** and **11:1-9**; and **Zechariah 9:9-10**. The anticipated **Messiah** is **Yeshua ha-Meshiach**.³³

There are three songs in this section: **Elizabeth's greeting of Mary** (see **Am - Mary Visits Elizabeth**); **Mary's song** (see **An - The Song of Mary**); and **Zechariah's prophecy** (see **Ao - The Birth of John the Baptist**).