

September 30 Answers

- 1) The birth of John the Baptist and the conception of Jesus. Over **420** years had passed since Nehemiah rebuked the remnant and called them back to covenant faithfulness. In the intervening years, the prophecies made by **Daniel** had come to pass. Eventually, the **Roman** empire took control of Judea, and there was a long period of peace. It was during this time that the angel Gabriel announced the birth of John and Jesus. Note the reference to the **righteousness** of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Their lives testify to the fact that people could walk "**blamelessly** in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord" (Luke 1:6). They manifested the combination of outward compliance and inward obedience that God always wanted from His people, and they show us that we too can live a life of holiness. The preface to John's gospel teaches us so many important truths about Jesus: (1) Jesus is the **Son**, the eternal "only begotten" of the Father, (2) Jesus is the **Word**, the personification of the Father's self-expression in creation and revelation, (3) Jesus is the God-man, fully God and fully man, a union of two **natures** in one **Person**, (4) Jesus is the **Life**, the source of spiritual life for all who believe, (5) Jesus is the **Light**, the shining beacon of hope in a world of darkness, and (6) Jesus is the **Exegete**, the revealer and explainer of the Father.