



Jesus Birth: Before and After

Zacharias: The Unexpected Expectation

Just Another Day at the Temple

Luke 1:5-25

Holy But No Hope: Zacharias and his wife were known for their personal holiness—but because of not having any children, it was as if God had not really blessed them. In the eyes of their Jewish friends they were non-blessed holy people.

A. Who were Zacharias and Elizabeth? 1:5

The priest and the priest's daughter!

- **Zacharias was of the priestly division of Abia**
David divided the priests into shifts: See *1 Chronicles 24*
Abia was the “eighth” in order.
- **Elizabeth was of the daughters of Aaron**
A descendant of Aaron, the first high priest of the Jews
- **John the Baptist** was in the line of the Aaronic priesthood.

B. Four things about their character 1:6

1. They were righteous
2. Walked in the commandments
3. Walked in the ordinances
4. They were blameless

C. Disappointment and grief 1:7

In that day it was a great reproach to be childless, for children were a sign of God's blessing.

D. When you least expect it

1. Zacharias gets a turn in the Temple 1:8-10
The lot was drawn and fell to Zacharias
2. He finds more than he expected 1:11
 - There had been no prophetic voice or angelic appearance for 400 years.
 - **Gabriel** was the same angel that had appeared to Daniel five hundred years before, and gave him an account of the time of the Messiah's coming (*Dan 9:21*).
 - “Your prayer has been heard.” Zechariahs’ prayer while offering the sacrifice would have been for the nation, but the answer to the prayer also gave them a long hoped-for child, a hope they had abandoned because of their old age.

E. Fear and reassurance 1:12-17

Zacharias was afraid! Gabriel reassures him by revealing the wonderful things in store for his son and for Israel. His son would even be filled with the Holy Spirit while in his mother's womb.

F. Zacharias did NOT believe 1:18-20

Even though Zacharias obeyed the Lord he suffered the consequences of his unbelief and was not able to speak until the baby was born.

Blessing & Fulfillment

Luke 1:57-67

G. Zacharias' statement of faith. Luke 1:61-63

When John wrote on the tablet “*His name is John*” he was confirming his faith in what God had said through the angel. Immediately he was able to speak.

Restrictions and limitations often vanish as soon as faith is spoken forth.

H. God's timing

Zacharias had to wait until the baby was born before he could make his declaration of faith and name the baby John. There are some things you just can't speed up—but when the time is right—you CAN speak up.

I. Filled with the Spirit

Luke 1:67; 15; 41

John was filled with the Spirit in his mother's womb. **Elizabeth** was filled with the Spirit when her baby was filled with the Spirit. **Zacharias** was filled with the Spirit after his statement of faith and then he gave a wonderful prophecy about John and Jesus the Messiah.

What is God preparing for you? Or better: What is God preparing YOU FOR?

Like Zacharias and Elizabeth, you're never TOO old to be a part of God's plan for someone or for a nation.