

## **Zechariah and Elizabeth Luke Ch 1 6 – 63 (Shortened)**



Zechariah and Elizabeth were both good people who pleased God. They did everything the Lord commanded, always following his instructions completely. But they had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby, and they were very old.

Zechariah was serving as a priest. He went into the Temple of the Lord to offer the incense. Then, an angel of the Lord came and stood before Zechariah. When he saw the angel, Zechariah was upset and very afraid.

But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, don't be afraid. Your prayer has been heard by God. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to a baby boy, and you will name him John. You will be very happy, and many others will share your joy over his birth. He will be a great man for the Lord. He will prepare people for God coming.

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is also old."

The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, God sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. Now, listen! You will not be able to talk until the day when these things happen because you did not believe what I told you. But everything I said will really happen."

Outside, the people were still waiting for Zechariah. Then Zechariah came outside, but he could not speak to them, he could only make signs to the people. When his time of service was finished, he went home.

Later, Zechariah's wife Elizabeth became pregnant. So she did not go out of her house for five months. She said, "Look what the Lord has done for me! He decided to help me. Now people will stop thinking there is something wrong with me."

### **The Birth of John**

When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord was very good to her, and they were happy for her. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father's name. But his mother said, "No, he will be named John."

The people said to Elizabeth, "But no one in your family has that name." Then they made signs to his father, "What would you like to name him?"

Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was surprised. Then Zechariah could talk again, and he began praising God. Everyone who heard about these things wondered about them. They thought, "What will this child be?" They could see that the Lord was with him.