

**Zechariah and Elizabeth,
the Parents of John the Baptist: Godly Parents
Luke 01:05–25**

1 *The parents of John the Baptist*

- a. They lived in the time of Herod
- b. The father was a priest and the mother was of a priestly family

2 *They were parents who were righteous*

3 *They were parents with human problems*

- a. They had no child
- b. They were elderly

4 *They were parents who worshipped*

5 *They were parents who prayed and led others to pray*

6 *They were parents greatly favoured by God*

- a. Their worship and prayers were favoured by a visit from an angel

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

6 Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God.

9 He was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

b. Their prayers were answered:
They received
the promise of a son

c. Their son was to be great

d. Their son was to be a prophet

e. Their son was to be
the forerunner of the Messiah

7 *They were parents
who found it difficult to believe
the humanly impossible*

8 *They were parents
who had to be disciplined by God*

13 But the angel said to him:
“Do not be afraid, Zechariah;
your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
and you are to give him the name John.

14 He will be a joy and delight to you,
and many will rejoice because of his birth,

15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord.
He is never to take wine
or other fermented drink,
and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit
even from birth.

16 Many of the people of Israel
will he bring back to the Lord their God.

17 And he will go on before the Lord,
in the spirit and power of Elijah,
to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children
and the disobedient
to the wisdom of the righteous —
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

18 Zechariah asked the angel,
“How can I be sure of this?
I am an old man
and my wife is well along in years.”

19 The angel answered, “I am Gabriel.
I stand in the presence of God,
and I have been sent to speak to you
and to tell you this good news.

20 And now you will be silent
and not able to speak
until the day this happens,
because you did not believe my words,
which will come true at their proper time.”

21 Meanwhile,
the people were waiting for Zechariah
and wondering why he stayed
so long in the temple.

9 *They were parents
who saw God fulfill His promise*

22 When he came out,
he could not speak to them.
They realized he had seen
a vision in the temple,
for he kept making signs to them
but remained unable to speak.

23 When his time of service was completed,
he returned home.

24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant
and for five months remained in seclusion.

25 “The Lord has done this for me,” she said.
“In these days he has shown his favour
and taken away my disgrace
among the people.”