

**Luke 1:5-38 (ESV)**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because

5 Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the

10 altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink,

15 and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old

20 man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were

25 wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to  
speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he  
kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was  
ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for  
five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the  
30 days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." In the sixth  
month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to  
a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And  
the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored  
one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to  
35 discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be  
afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in  
your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and  
will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the  
throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of  
40 his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be,  
since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon  
you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be  
born will be called holy--the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her  
old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was  
45 called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I  
am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel  
departed from her.