



Zacharias Learns
of John's Birth
Luke 1:5-25

Zacharias Learns of John's Birth

Luke 1:5–25
c. 4 B.C.

Zacharias was a righteous priest of the Lord. He was called upon to serve the Lord in the Temple. Although he and his wife Elizabeth were righteous believers, they had no children.

Zacharias received the honor of burning incense before the Lord in the Temple. When he went into the Holy Place, he was confronted by the angel Gabriel. The angel announced that Zacharias and Elizabeth would have a son whom they should name John. He also told Zacharias that this child would be the one that would come in the power and spirit of Elijah, as the prophet Malachi had foretold 400 years before.

Zacharias did not believe the words of the angel, so the Lord made him unable to speak.

R E S O U R C E S

Bible

Child's Story Bible, pgs. 263, 264

Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 184, 185

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 192, 193

Survey of the Bible, pgs. 137, 138





The Annunciation
The Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Simone Martini

Gabriel Tells Mary of the Incarnation

Luke 1:26–56

Gabriel Tells Mary of the Incarnation

Luke 1:26–56

c. 4 B.C.

The angel Gabriel came to a virgin named Mary, and announced that she would be the Messiah's mother. When the angel came Mary was frightened. The angel said that Mary's Son would be great, that God would give Him the throne of David, and that His kingdom would never end.

Many things made Mary an unlikely candidate for this great honor. She was in the town of Nazareth which was not a great town, nor was it the town in which the Messiah was to be born. She was young, probably in her middle teenage years. She was not even married.

Mary, however, believed God. Although she could not understand all of the mystery of God becoming man, she held to the promises that the angel had given, and said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your words." While Mary had very little of what the world was looking for, she had exactly what God sought: simple, wholehearted trust in His Word.

Mary then went to visit Elizabeth, because the angel had told her that Elizabeth was pregnant. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and her baby leaped within her. Mary's words have become known as the song of praise called the *Magnificat*.

R E S O U R C E S

Bible

Child's Story Bible, pgs. 264, 265

Children's Illustrated Bible,
pgs. 186, 187

Journey Through the Bible,

pgs. 194–197

Survey of the Bible, pgs. 138, 139





The Birth of John

Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:57–80

Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:57-80

c. 3 B.C.

After Zacharias' and Elizabeth's child was born, it came time to circumcise and name him. Everyone was rejoicing with them because God had given them a son in their old age. Because Zacharias could not speak, the people asked Elizabeth what the child should be named. When she said that his name should be John, the people were confused. They wanted to ask Zacharias if this was all right with him because none of their relatives were named John. It was a custom in those days, as it is today, to name children after relatives.

The people rushed to Zacharias to find out what he thought the name of the child should be. When Zacharias wrote that the child's name should be John, the Lord opened his mouth, and he spoke words of praise to the Lord. This has become known as the *Benedictus*, a song thanking God for His faithfulness to His covenant promises. Zacharias prophesied that John would be the great messenger of the Lord spoken of in Malachi 3 and 4. The *Benedictus* received its name because its first word in Latin is *benedictus*, which means *blessed*.

R E S O U R C E S

Bible

Child's Story Bible, p. 265

Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 188, 189

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 198, 199





The Nativity (detail)

Correggio

Birth of Christ

Luke 2

Birth of Christ

Matthew 1, Luke 2

c. 3 B.C.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Mary to tell her that she, a virgin, would be the mother of Jesus, God incarnate. She was shocked and frightened, but humbly and willingly complied with the angel.

Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. So when Caesar Augustus decreed that a census be taken, Joseph and Mary, who were nearly ready to give birth, went to Bethlehem in Judea to be registered. She went into labor and gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem in a stable because there was no room in the inn.

In the sky, angels appeared to shepherds nearby announcing the birth of Jesus, the Savior. The shepherds went and saw the baby Jesus lying in the manger, and they told many about all that had happened.

R E S O U R C E S

Bible

Child's Story Bible, pgs. 265–267

Children's Illustrated Bible, pgs. 190–193

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 200–203

