

The Birth of Something New
Luke 1:5-38

Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25



Luke 1

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 righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.



Luke 1

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.



Luke 1

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. 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 call him 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 before he is born.



Luke 1

¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel 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 parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."



Luke 1

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



Luke 1

¹⁹The angel said to him, "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. ²⁰And 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 appointed time."



Luke 1

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


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.



Luke 1

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 favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."



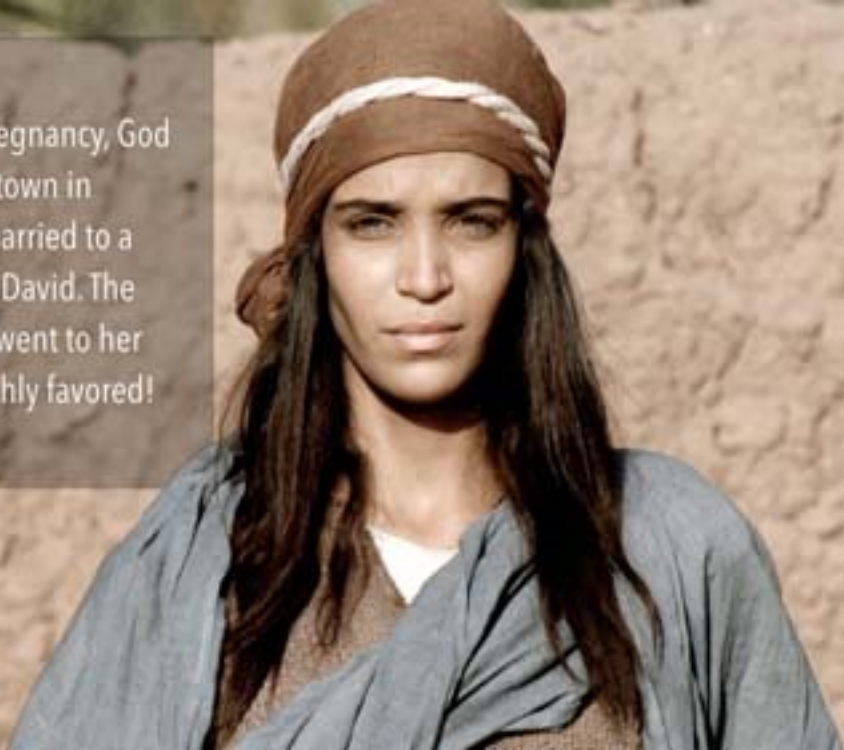


Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1

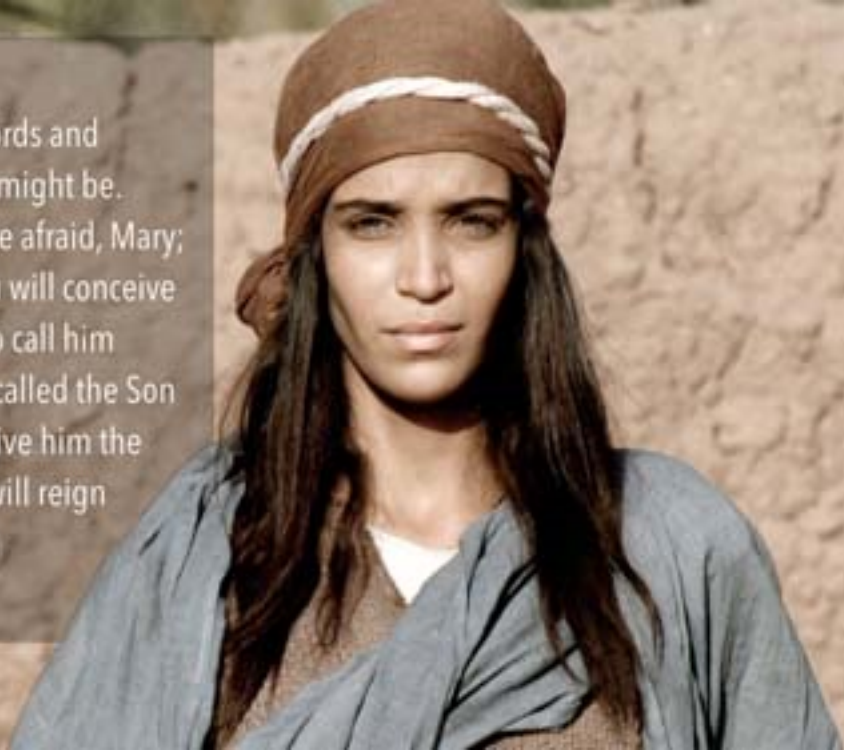
²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."



Luke 1

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."



Luke 1


³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[1] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."



Luke 1

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.






Zechariah

- an older, righteous and faithful priest
- "Don't be afraid"
- A great promise about his son
- "How can I be sure of this?"
- "You will be silent ..."

Mary

- A young girl of faith
- "Don't be afraid. You have found favor with God."
- A great promise about her son
- "How will this be since I am a virgin?"
- The angel answers her and leaves






What's different?

sometimes too many
unresolved experiences make it
hard for us to believe

it may even be hard for us to
believe God will answer prayers
we have been praying for a
long time



What's different?

God expected
Zechariah, an old
man, to respond to
God's Word with the
heart of a young
person



What's different?


Matthew 11 ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

sometimes too much education and "wise thinking" can keep us from simple faith



disappointments

too much
education or "wise
thinking"

A black and white photograph of a woman in profile, looking upwards. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved dress over a light-colored top. The background is a dark, textured wall, possibly made of mud or stone, with some faint markings. The floor is dark and uneven. A broom and a bowl are visible in the background on the right.

Will you let
God implant
new hope and
life in you?