




Hope for the Hopeless

Luke 1:5-20



Luke 1:⁵ During the rule of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest assigned service in the regiment of Abijah. His name was Zechariah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Together they lived HONORABLY before God, careful in keeping to the ways of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. ⁷ BUT they were childless because Elizabeth could never conceive, AND NOW they were quite old.

They Remained Honorable Before God

They Remained Honorable Before God

- They remained faithful to each other.
- They remained faithful to their Father.

They Remained Honorable Before God

Luke 1: 8-10 It so happened that as Zechariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense.

They Remained Honorable Before God

The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of the incense offering. ¹¹ Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the alter of incense. ¹² Zechariah was paralyzed in fear. ¹³ But the angel reassured him, "Don't fear, Zechariah. YOUR PRAYER has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John.

God Finally Honored Their Prayers

- He answered in His time.
- He answered according to His purposes.

God Finally Honored Their Prayers

17 He will herald God's arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among the hardened skeptics—he'll get the people ready for God."

God Finally Honored Their Prayers

- He answered in His time.
- He answered according to His purposes.
- He answered despite their doubts.

God Finally Honored Their Prayers

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “Do you expect me to believe this? I’m an old man and my wife is an old woman.”

God Finally Honored Their Prayers

19 But the angel said, “I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news. 20 But because you won’t believe me, you’ll be unable to say a word until the day of your son’s birth. Every word I’ve spoken to you will come true on time—God’s time.”

Finding Hope . . .

