

~ZECHARIAH 31 (208)

(Zech-a-ri'ah) [Yehowah Has Remembered]

.. Priestly Father Of John The Baptizer

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- In the days of chief priest Annas and of Caiaphas, God's declaration came to John the son of **Zechariah** in the wilderness. (Luke 3:2)
- He and his wife Elizabeth, a relative of Jesus mother Mary, lived in the Judean hills. They both feared God and obeyed his commandments. Though advanced in years, they had no children.
- In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there happened to be a certain priest named **Zechariah** of the division of Abijah, and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (Luke 1:5)
- They both were righteous before God because of walking blamelessly in accord with all the commandments and legal requirements of Yehowah. (Luke 1:6)
- But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were well along in years. (Luke 1:7)
- And, look! Elizabeth your relative has also herself conceived a son, in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her, the so-called barren woman. (Luke 1:36)
- When it was **Zechariah's** turn to offer incense during the division of Abijah, probably around late spring or early summer of **3 B.C.E.**, he entered the sanctuary as usual.
- On this occasion Yehowah's angel Gabriel appeared to him, informing him that his supplication had been favorably heard, that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son to him, and that the boy was to be called John. Gabriel instructed **Zechariah** about how the boy should be raised and what this son was to accomplish.
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- Now as he was acting as priest in the assignment of his division before God. (Luke 1:8)
- According to the solemn practice of the priestly office it became his turn to offer incense when he entered into the sanctuary of Yehowah. (Luke 1:9)
- And all the multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of offering incense. (Luke 1:10)
- To him Yehowah's angel appeared, standing at the right side of the incense altar. (Luke 1:11)
- But **Zechariah** became troubled at the sight, and fear fell upon him. (Luke 1:12)
- However, the angel said to him; Have no fear, **Zechariah**, because your supplication has been favorably heard, and your wife Elizabeth will become mother to a son to you, and you are to call his name John. (Luke 1:13)
- And you will have joy and great gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. (Luke 1:14)
- For he will be great before Yehowah. But he must drink no wine and strong drink at all, and he will be filled with Holy Spirit right from his mothers womb. (Luke 1:15)
- And many of the sons of Israel will he turn back to Yehowah their God. (Luke 1:16)
- Also, he will go before him with Elijah's spirit and power, to turn back the hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient ones to the practical wisdom of righteous ones, to get ready for Yehowah

a prepared people. (Luke 1:17)

- **Zechariah** asked the angel for a sign as a further assurance. Because of his weakness as to believing the angel, he was informed that he would be struck with dumbness until after John's birth.
- And **Zechariah** said to the angel; How am I to be sure of this? For I am aged and my wife is well along in years. (Luke 1:18)
- In reply the angel said to him; I am Gabriel, who stands near before God, and I was sent forth to speak with you and declare the Good News of these things to you. (Luke 1:19)
- But, look! You will be silent and not able to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their appointed time. (Luke 1:20)
- Meanwhile the people continued waiting for **Zechariah**, and they began to wonder at his delaying in the sanctuary. (Luke 1:21)
- But when he came out he was not able to speak to them, and they perceived that he had just seen a supernatural sight in the sanctuary, and he kept making signs to them, but remained dumb. (Luke 1:22)
- When, now, the days of his public service were fulfilled, he went off to his home. (Luke 1:23)
- On the eighth day after the baby was born, Elizabeth rejected suggestions from neighbors and relatives and insisted that her son be named John.
- Upon their appealing to the father, **Zechariah** took a tablet and wrote on it; John is its name. Instantly his speech was restored and he uttered a prophecy concerning the work of his son and that of the Messiah.
- However, the angel said to him; Have no fear, Zechariah, because your supplication has been favorably heard, and your wife Elizabeth will become mother to a son to you, and you are to call his name John. (Luke 1:13)
- The time now became due for Elizabeth to give birth, and she became mother to a son. (Luke 1:57)

- **And the neighbors and her relatives heard that Yehowah had magnified his mercy to her, and they began to rejoice with her. (Luke 1:58)**
- **And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the young child, and they were going to call it by the name of its father, Zechariah. (Luke 1:59)**
- **But its mother answered and said; No, indeed! But he shall be called John. (Luke 1:60)**
- **At this they said to her; There is no one among your relatives that is called by this name. (Luke 1:61)**
- **Then they went asking its father by signs what he wanted it to be called. (Luke 1:62)**
- **And he asked for a tablet and wrote. John is its name. At this they all marveled. (Luke 1:63)**
- **Instantly his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed and he began to speak, blessing God. (Luke 1:64)**
- **And fear fell upon all those living in their neighborhood, and in the whole mountainous country of Judea all these things began to be talked around. (Luke 1:65)**
- **And all that heard made note of it in their hearts, saying; What really will this young child be? For the hand of Yehowah was indeed with it. (Luke 1:66)**
- **And Zechariah its father was filled with Holy Spirit, and he prophesied, saying; (Luke 1:67)**
- **Blessed be Yehowah the God of Israel, because he has turned his attention and performed deliverance toward his people. (Luke 1:68)**
- **And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant. (Luke 1:69)**
- **Just as he, through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, has spoken. (Luke 1:70)**

- Of a salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all those hating us. (**Luke 1:71**)
- To perform the mercy in connection with our forefathers and to call to mind his holy covenant. (**Luke 1:72**)
- The oath that he swore to Abraham our forefather. (**Luke 1:73**)
- To grant us, after we have been rescued from the hands of enemies, the privilege of fearlessly rendering sacred service to him. (**Luke 1:74**)
- With loyalty and righteousness before him all our days. (**Luke 1:75**)
- But as for you, young child, you will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go in advance before Yehowah to make his ways ready. (**Luke 1:76**)
- To give knowledge of salvation to his people by forgiveness of their sins. (**Luke 1:77**)
- Because of the tender compassion of our God. With this compassion a daybreak will visit us from on high. (**Luke 1:78**)
- To give light to those sitting in darkness and death's shadow, to direct our feet prosperously in the way of peace. (**Luke 1:79**)