Zacharias and his wife, Elisabeth, were Jews who lived near Jerusalem. They obeyed God’s commandments. For many years they prayed to have a baby. When they were old, they still had no children.


Zacharias was a priest in the temple. One day an angel named Gabriel came to him. Gabriel said that God would answer Zacharias and Elisabeth’s prayers. They would have a baby. Gabriel said they should name the baby John.

Luke 1:8–13, 19
Gabriel said that John would be a righteous prophet of God. He would teach people about Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:15–17

Zacharias did not believe the angel. Elisabeth was too old to have a baby. Gabriel said that because he did not believe what God had promised, Zacharias would not be able to talk until John was born.

Luke 1:18–20