

I. Zechariah – before the angel’s prophecy (v. 5-12)

- A. Zechariah was a holy priest
- B. Zechariah was a righteous man
- C. Zechariah was a childless father
- D. Zechariah was a terrified listener

II. The angel’s prophecy (v. 13-17)

- A. Zechariah heard that his prayer had been heard

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer.” (I Peter 3:12)

- B. Zechariah heard that he would have a son
- C. Zechariah heard that his son would be a great leader

“I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.” (Matthew 11:11)

- D. Zechariah heard that his son would be an anointed prophet

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.’” (Isaiah 40:3)

- E. Zechariah heard that his son would turn people back to God

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.” (Malachi 3:1)

- F. Zechariah heard that his son would point people to Jesus

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

III. Zechariah – after the angel’s prophecy (v. 18-25)

- A. Zechariah responded to the prophecy with doubt

“Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt.’” (Matthew 14:31)

- B. Zechariah was rebuked for his lack of faith

“He said to his disciples, ‘Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?’” (Mark 4:40)

- C. Zechariah was made to be silent until the birth

D. Zechariah was encouraged to believe the promise

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

E. Zechariah believed God

F. Zechariah obeyed God

G. Zechariah praised God