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A Biographical Study of Zacharias

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Zacharias

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Zacharias, the priest
 - A. His devotion to God—Both he and his wife Elisabeth loved the Lord. “And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless” (Luke 1:6).
 - B. His duties for God
 1. Zacharias and the altar of the Lord—“And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense” (Luke 1:8-10).
 2. Zacharias and the angel of the Lord
 - a. The reassurance—“And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John” (Luke 1:11-13).
 - b. The revelation—Zacharias heard a sixfold prophecy from this heavenly angel whose name was Gabriel:
 - (1) He and Elisabeth would have a son (Luke 1:13).
 - (2) His name would be John (Luke 1:13).
 - (3) He would become a Spirit-filled Nazirite (Luke 1:15).
 - (4) He would have a successful ministry (Luke 1:16).
 - (5) He would prepare the way for the Messiah (Luke 1:17).
 - (6) His style would be similar to that of Elijah (Luke 1:17).
 - c. The response—“And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years” (Luke 1:18).
 - d. The rebuke—“And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season” (Luke 1:19-20).
 - e. The results—“And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless” (Luke 1:21-22).

- f. The rejoicing—“And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men” (Luke 1:23-25).

II. Zacharias, the parent

A. Writing—the silent words of Zacharias

1. The celebration—“Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her” (Luke 1:57-58).
2. The circumcision—“And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father” (Luke 1:59).
3. The confusion—“And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name” (Luke 1:60-61).
4. The confirmation—“And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all” (Luke 1:62-63).

B. Worshipping—The spoken words of Zacharias. “And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God” (Luke 1:64).

III. Zacharias, the prophet

A. His words to the Savior—“And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people” (Luke 1:67-68).

1. He thanked God for the Davidic Covenant—“And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David” (Luke 1:69).
2. He thanked God for the Abrahamic Covenant—“The oath which he sware to our father Abraham” (Luke 1:73).

B. His words to his son—“And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:76-79).

STATISTICS

Spouse: Elisabeth

Son: John the Baptist

First mention: Luke 1:5

Final mention: Luke 3:2

Meaning of his name: "God remembers"

Frequency of his name: Referred to eight times

Biblical books mentioning him: One book (Luke)

Occupation: Priest

Important fact about his life: He was the father of John the Baptist.