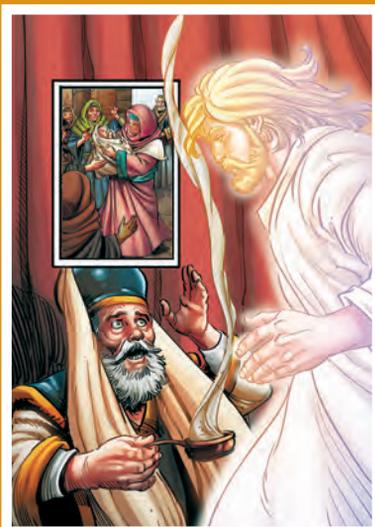


CLAIM TO FAME



The angel Gabriel appeared to him and announced that he and his wife would have a son in their old age. The boy would grow up to become John the Baptist, whom God chose to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

Zechariah gave a speech that included a prophecy: God would send the Savior, and Zechariah's son, John, would be a prophet to prepare people to hear about the salvation the Messiah would bring.

ZECHARIAH

Priest, father of John the Baptist

His name means "Jehovah is remembered."

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT

He lost his voice—and not just for a day. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, had never been able to have children and were very old. When Gabriel announced they would have a son, Zechariah didn't believe him, and Gabriel took away his ability to speak throughout Elizabeth's pregnancy.

HOMELAND

Hill country of Judea, Israel

WHERE IS IT NOW?

Har Yehuda, Israel

BACKGROUND

He was a Hebrew from a priestly family from the tribe of Levi (making him a Levite).

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Luke 1



**FATHER OF
JOHN THE BAPTIST**

His wife, Elizabeth, was related to Mary, who would become the mother of Jesus. Therefore, John and Jesus were cousins.



Groups of priests took turns serving in the temple. However, Zechariah was alone in the inner area. When it was Zechariah's turn to burn incense before the Lord, God chose that moment to announce the birth of John.

When the baby was born, other relatives decided to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Zechariah asked for a tablet and wrote "His name is John." Suddenly Zechariah's voice came back, and he burst out with praise to God.

Zechariah was the first person in the Bible who had heard from God since the prophet Malachi more than 400 years before. God began to speak again when He was ready to send His own Son from heaven.