

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

Let's turn to the **Book of Luke, chapter 1**, and get excited about an angel talking to Zacharias right there as he is in the temple offering the incense, which is representing the prayers of all the people outside, only to be told that his aged wife and himself were going to have a son! Not only was his wife going to bear this son, but the child would be called **John**, and also **many shall rejoice. . .**

This is an amazing happening!

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost - *the Holy Spirit* - even from his mother's womb. Could you imagine? Filled with the Spirit of God while the baby is still in the mother's womb!

16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. You know, this is an incredible prophecy!

17 And he shall go before Him -*that is speaking of the One who is the Messiah that they were waiting for-* in the spirit and the power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Oh, how I praise God for a life that points

to Christ; a life that is not to be lived for himself, but to be lived totally for the Lord! So this is the exciting news that was being given to Zacharias.

**19 And the angel answered and said unto him, I am Gabriel**

. . . Now you might not know much about this angel and we are not to be dealing with angels we are told in the Scriptures. But this angel was a rather happy angel, because he seemed to be in charge of a lot happening around the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, here he was representing God in the very presence of God, telling Zecharias exactly what would happen. He said,

**19 . . . I am sent to speak unto thee, and shew thee these glad tidings.** Boy! an answer to prayer! Have you ever had an answer to prayer that has been delayed so long? Well, this is Zacharias when he gets the answer to his prayer.

**18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? - *how shall I know this?*- for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. *That means she was bent over and pretty old.***

You see, we do that, don't we? We pray and pray and pray and pray. God says these wonderful things are going to happen. As we are in the Word, He encourages our heart and we think, "No - that is not for me. That is written for somebody else ." And we do not believe God will answer our prayers and, therefore, we give up on them. We say these trite prayers, but we do not understand that the heavens move

at the bidding of God when we pray in the authority and in the Name and in the the power of the Lord Jesus. I do not care what situation you are in. You might think this is the end of life; you cannot face one more day; you can't go on; you don't know how you are going to feed the children; you don't know how you are going to manage. The persecution is terrible in your land. How can you cope? Remember, you have God on your side and He answers prayer, but He wants you to believe Him.

You see, sadly, Zacharias did not believe Him. He missed it, didn't he? The angel said,

**20 And behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak . . .**

With our lips we are to praise the Lord; with our lips we are to share Christ; with our lips, we are to confess and to believe what is going to happen. We have faith to see these things. So, suddenly, Zacharias' mouth is going to be shut! He does not have the faith to express it and say, "Thank You, Lord, for what You will do." . . . **until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believed not my words. . . - that is the angel speaking - . . . which shall be fulfilled in their season.** And so, Zecharias was rebuked by the Lord: he couldn't speak.

**21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he tarried so long in the temple.**

22       And when he came out, he could not speak to them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. And so this man with his wonderful, wonderful news, had his mouth sealed!

23       And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. He fulfilled the task. Everybody was bewildered. They knew something amazing was happening. What about you? God has given you lips to share Christ. Would you share Christ with somebody, somewhere, please? Get on the phone. Write a note. Go talk to your neighbor. This is the hour that you have lived to speak of Him.

*In the Name of Jesus, thank You, Lord. Amen.*