

The Shock of Zechariah's Life

Luke 1:1-25

1. Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity to Burn Incense at the Temple
 - a. The priestly order and the “luck” of the draw
 - b. Zechariah's prayer and Elizabeth's pain
 - c. The prayers of the people and the presence of God

2. The Angel Gabriel Appears in the Holy Place
 - a. Shock and awe! Fear and trembling!
 - b. *Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.*
 - c. John's name, identity, and mission prescribed by God

3. Zechariah's Final Words (for Over Nine Months)
 - a. “How can I be sure of this?” (*Don't mess with me, angel!*)
 - b. Time to silently bless the people outside the temple
 - c. Time to silently process Gabriel's words about his son