

# The **Big** Story Of The Bible #28

## **Zechariah's Song: A Funny Thing Happened On My Way To The Temple**

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I... have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Psalm 13:1-2 (NLT)

"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. Malachi 3:1 (NLT)

One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. Luke 1:8-10 (NLT)

## **Zechariah's Song Is About...**

### **1. ----- Prayer.**

\* Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. Luke 1:5-7 (NLT)

\* While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. Luke 1:11-13 (NLT)

### **2. ----- Redemption.**

\* A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed. Isaiah 40:3-5 (NIV)

**\* You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. Luke 1:14-15 (NLT)**

**\* And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. Luke 1:16-17 (NLT)**

**\* Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time." Luke 1:18-20 (NLT)**

**\* Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. Luke 1:24 (NLT)**

### **3. ----- Joy.**

**\* Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant — the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live. And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace. Luke 1:68-79 (NLT)**

**\* John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel. Luke 1:80 (NLT)**

## **Riverside Info Texting System**

At Riverside we aren't terribly organized- in fact we're sort of the poster church for "disorganized religion". So we use a "text for information" system where how much info you get is controlled by you. You will never have someone from the church call you without asking for a call. If you can't find the info you need or have more questions or need some help reach out to one of the pastors directly- if we don't answer your call try texting or emailing us and we may get your message sooner.

Ed - 907.306.2823, ednjude@gmail.com

Aniela (kids/teens ministries) - 907.748.1556, anielawhah@gmail.com

Nate (worship/teens ministry)- 907.360.4825 nrsandback@gmail.com

For info on any of the following areas simply text the keyword to 907-312-2662. You'll get a text in return with a link to the info you asked for.

- \* Frequently Asked Questions About Riverside- keyword= FAQs
- \* Communion Info- keyword= Communion
- \* Digital Sermon Notes= Notes
- \* Online Reflections- Reflections
- \* New To Riverside? keyword= Guest
- \* Want news and updates periodically? keyword= Loop
- \* Want more info about following Jesus? keyword= Shine
- \* Want info on baptism at Riverside? keyword= Baptism

### Youth Programs At Riverside:

- \* Want info on 4-5 grade programs? keyword= Ignite
- \* Want info on 6-8 grade programs? keyword= Rev
- \* Want info on high school programs? keyword= Thrive

