

Zechariah Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

What are some of the ways God prepared Zechariah to be the father of John?

If people look down on us, even God's people, does that mean that we are in the wrong?

Have you ever gone through the motions of a spiritual duty without thinking about its significance?

If you have children, have you found yourself thinking of what they mean to you instead of what they mean to God?

What did Zechariah's loss of ability to speak do for him?

Did it change him permanently?

What did it do for Elisabeth?

How did it effect the people at the Temple?

Imagine you were there to hear Zechariah say this:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us — to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

What would be your response after hearing this powerful prophecy?

How do you think these unusual events affected the public?

How did the news about Mary complete the story for Elisabeth?

How would a modern marketing and public relations firm have handled these events differently from the way God did?

What do you expect were the challenges to Zechariah and Elisabeth for raising John?

Was he likely to have been an easy child?