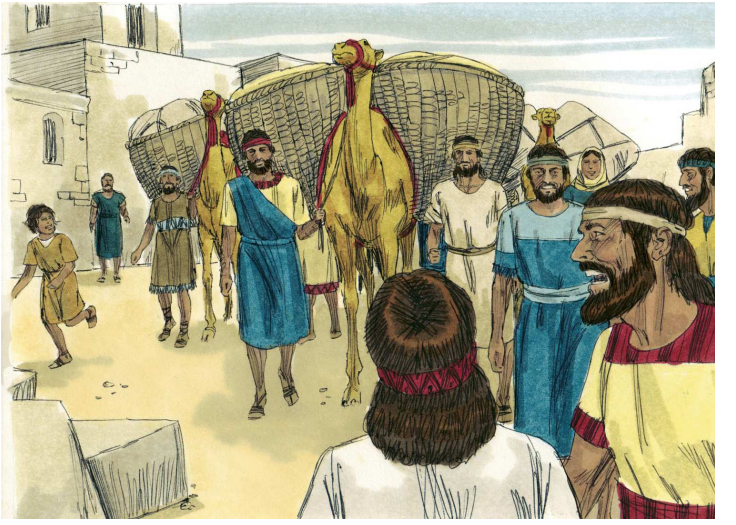
100 An Angel Appears to Zechariah



Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

English

Spiritual

100 An Angel Appears to Zechariah

English

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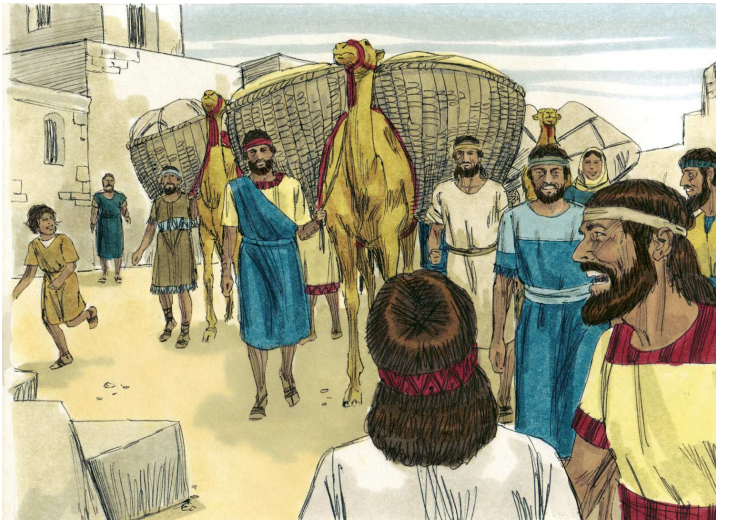
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A special thanks to the 50+ unnamed people who worked on the story scripts, templates, adapted illustrations and music.



After the exiled Jews returned to their homeland, it was approximately 400 years before the birth of the long awaited Messiah.



With the Babylonian exile, Israel ceased to be an independent nation. This period was a time of foreign domination of Israel, ending with the conquest of the expanding Roman Empire.



The Jews suffered greatly from the succession of foreign rulers – many of whom tried to eradicate Jewish customs and beliefs.



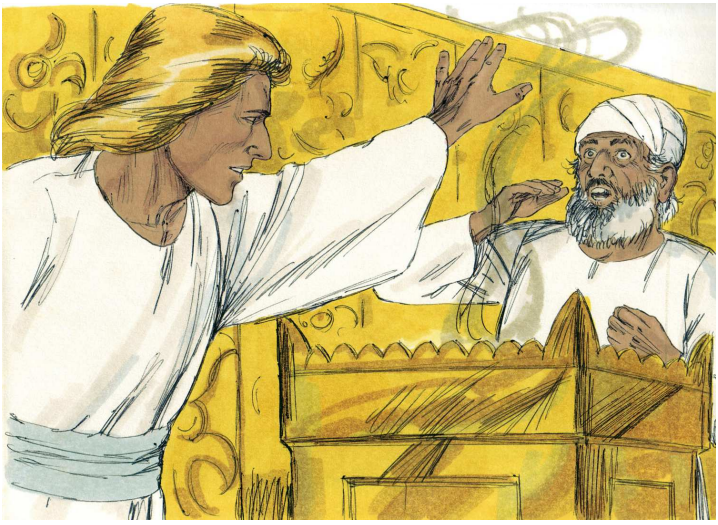
The promise of deliverance by the Messiah, from writings of the prophets of old, kept hope alive among the enslaved Jewish people.



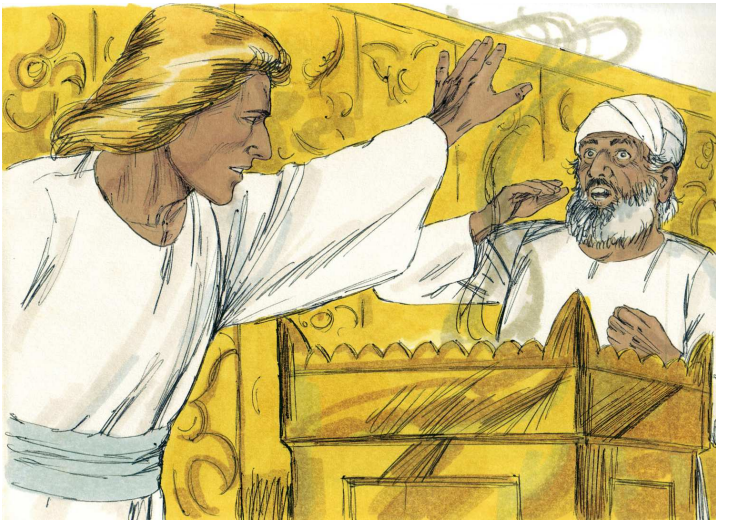
When King Herod ruled the province of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He and his wife Elizabeth faithfully obeyed everything God commanded.



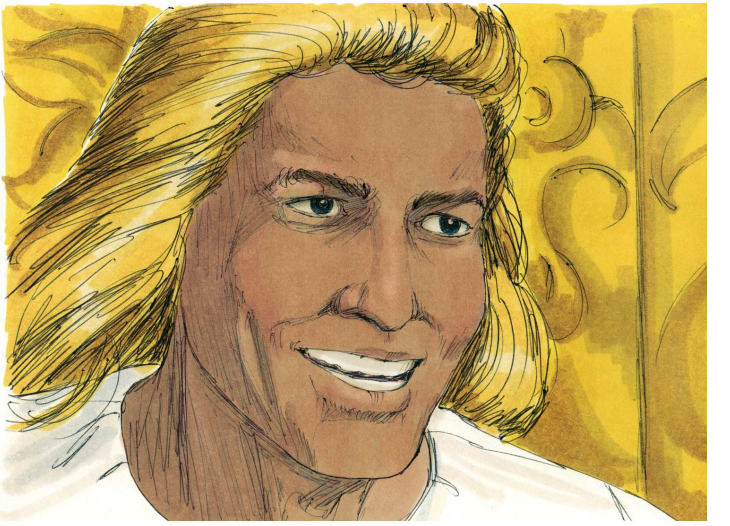
But they had no children, because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant. And now she and her husband were very old.



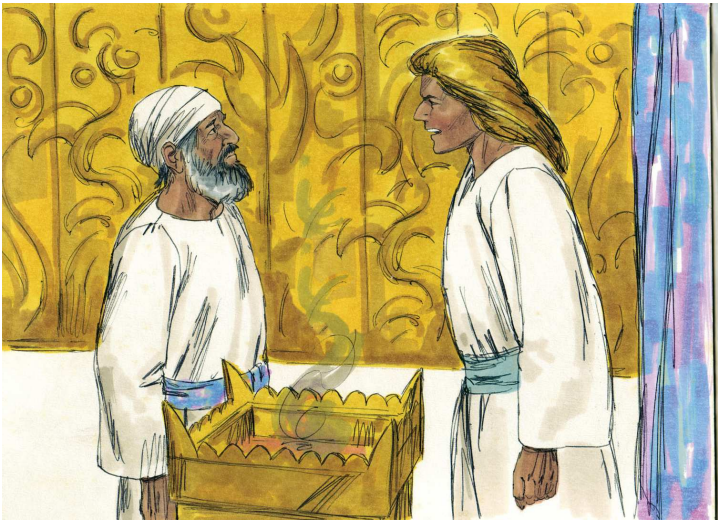
One day, Zechariah's turn came to serve God in the Temple. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar.



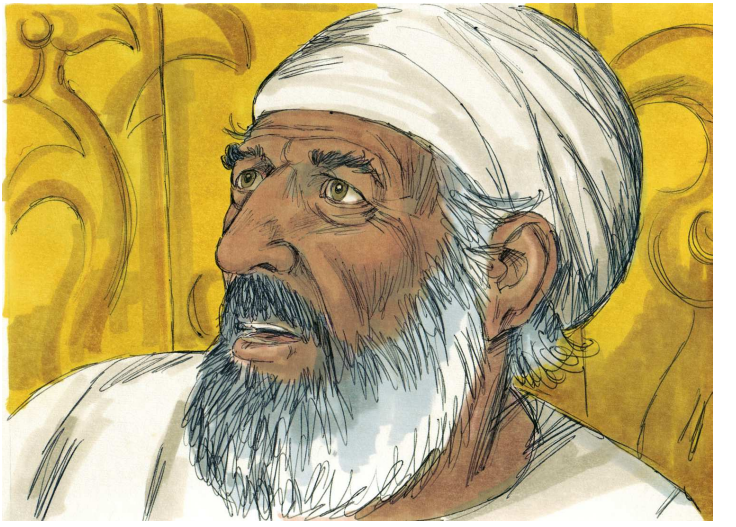
Zechariah was afraid when he saw the angel.



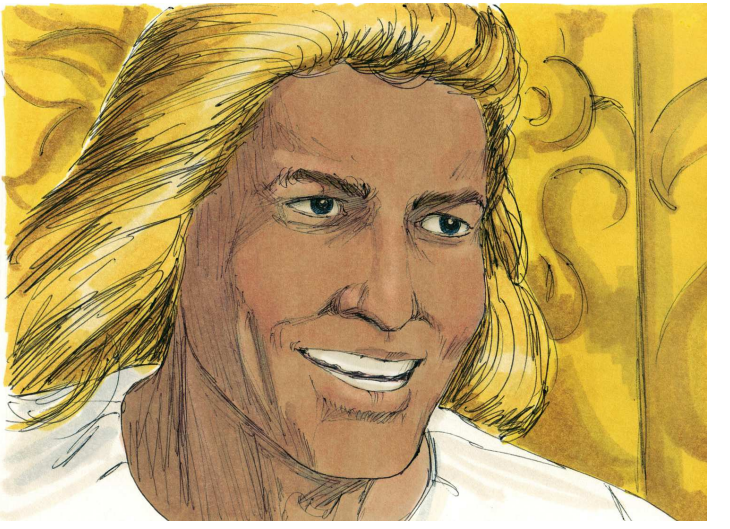
But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, do not be afraid. When you prayed, the Lord heard your request. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son. You must name him John, and he will be great in the eyes of the Lord.



“This son of yours will persuade many descendants of Israel to stop sinning and start obeying the Lord their God again. Your son will go in advance of the Lord and will be powerful in his spirit like the prophet Elijah.”



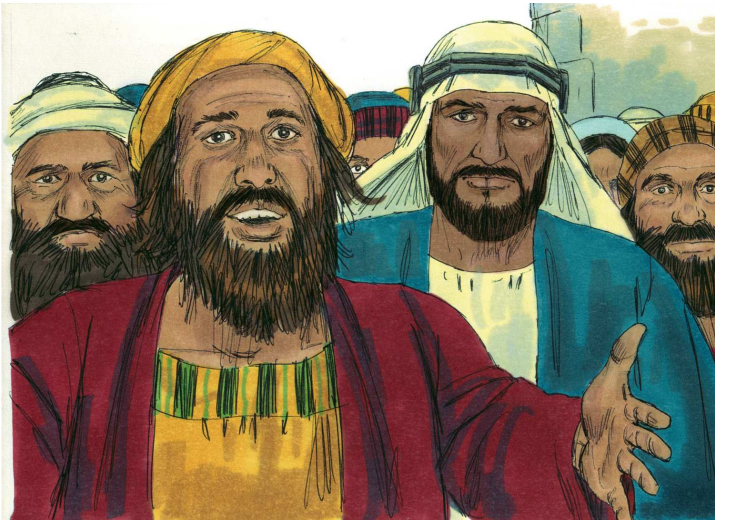
Then Zechariah said to the angel, "I am very old, and my wife is also very old. So how can I believe that the things you said will really happen?"



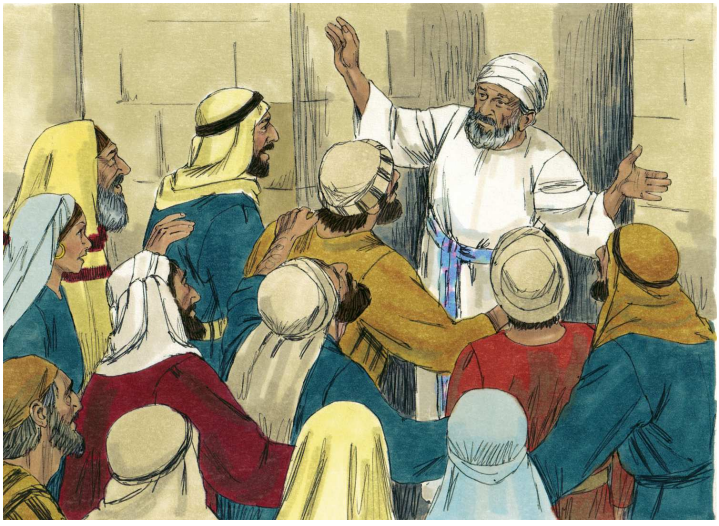
Then the angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's presence. I was sent to tell you this good news about what will happen to you."



“What I have told you will certainly happen at the time God has decided, but you did not believe my words. So now God will cause you to be unable to talk until the day your son is born."



While Zechariah and the angel were talking in the temple, the people in the courtyard were waiting for Zechariah to come out. They wondered why he was staying in the temple for such a long time.



When Zechariah came out, he was not able to speak to them. Because he could not talk, he made motions with his hands to try to explain what had happened. Then they realized that he had seen a vision from God while he was in the temple.



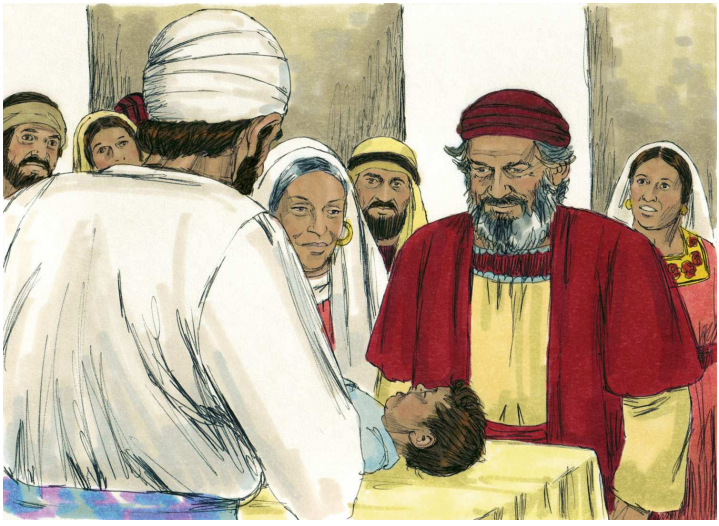
When Zechariah's time to work as a priest in the temple was finished, he left Jerusalem and went to his home.



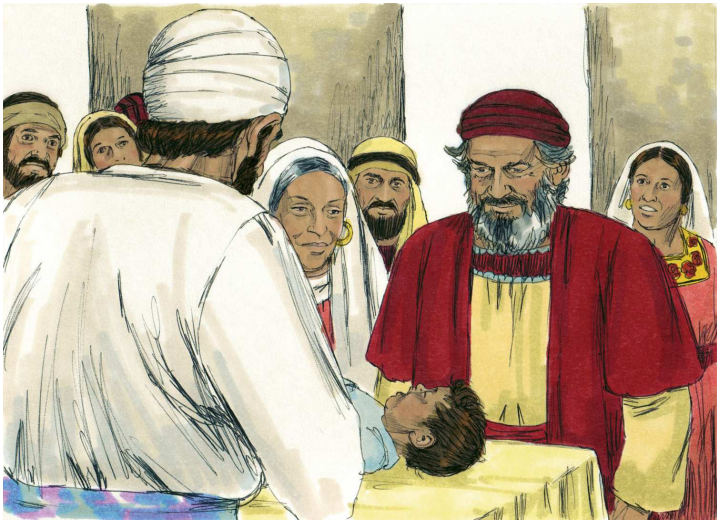
Sometime after this, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a son.



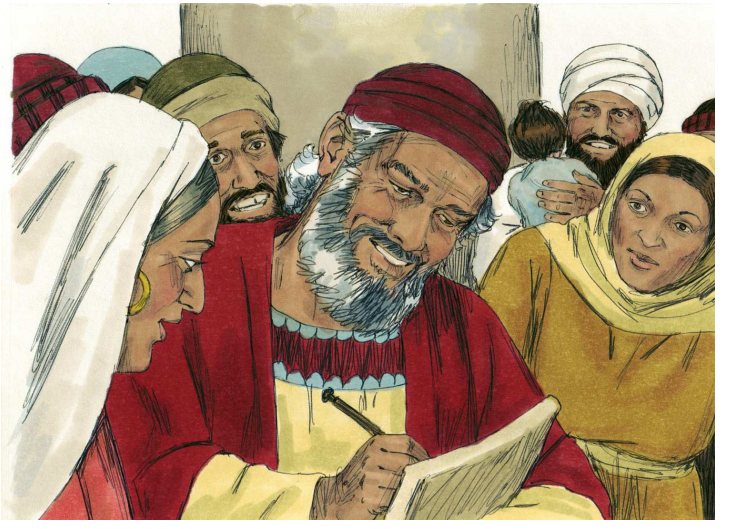
Her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had been so kind to her, and they rejoiced with her.



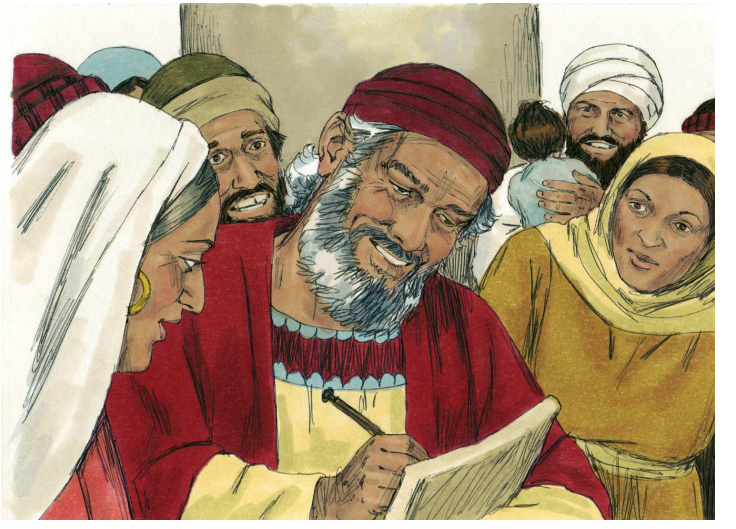
On the eighth day after his birth, people gathered together for the ceremony to circumcise the baby and give him his name.



Since his father's name was Zechariah, they wanted to give the baby the same name. But Elizabeth said, "No, his name will be John."



Then they turned to Zechariah, for him to indicate what name he wanted to be given to his son.



Zechariah signaled that they should give him a tablet to write on. When they gave him one, he wrote on it, "His name is John." Immediately Zechariah was able to speak again!



Over time, Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby boy grew up and became spiritually strong. John went to live in a remote area in the desert and was still living there when he began to preach publicly to the people of Israel.

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