

# Elizabeth [Mother of John the Baptist]

**In Jewish society in the days of Jesus Christ's first visit to earth as our Saviour, a woman's value was largely measured by her ability to bear children.**

**To be aging without children often led to personal hardship and public shame.**

For Elizabeth, a childless old age was a painful and lonely time during which she still remained faithful to God, [Luke 1:5-7].

**For two weeks each year Zechariah had to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to attend his priestly duties, [Luke 1:5].**

**After one of these trips Zechariah returned home excited but speechless.** He had to write down the good news, because he could not give it to his wife Elizabeth in any other way, [Luke 1:19-20].

**What a wonderful surprise for Elizabeth, their faded dream would become a reality.**

Soon Elizabeth became pregnant, and she knew that the child really was a gift from God.

News travelled fast among the family. Seventy miles to the north, in Nazareth, Elizabeth's relative Mary, also unexpectedly became pregnant.

Within days of the angel's message that she would bear the Messiah, Mary went to visit Elizabeth, [Luke 1:39-45].

They were instantly bound together by the unique gifts that God had given them.

Elizabeth knew that Mary's son would be even greater than her own, for John would be the messenger for Mary's son.

**When Elizabeth's baby was born, she insisted on his God-given name of John.**

**Zechariah's written agreement freed his voice and everyone in town wondered what would become of this obviously special child, [Luke 1:57-66].**

Elizabeth praised God as she cared for God's gift, her son John.

Knowing about Mary must have made her marvel at God's intervention and perfect timing. Things had worked out even better than she could have planned.

**We also need to remember that the Creator God is in control of every situation.**

When was the last time we paused to thank God for the events that have happened in our lives?

**Lessons we can learn from Elizabeth's life –**

**God does not forget those who are faithful to Him and His Word, the Christian Bible.**

**God's timetable and methods do not have to conform to what we expect.**