

# Luke 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

## Analysis

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The people's waiting and marveling at Zacharias's delay demonstrates expectation for the priestly ministry to proceed orderly. Their concern reflects the seriousness with which Israel treated temple worship—the priest's prolonged absence in God's presence caused wonder and anxiety. They couldn't know that divine history was being made in the Holy Place. This reminds us that God's most significant works often occur hidden from public view, in quiet moments of faithful service. The congregation's ignorance of the angelic visitation parallels our limited understanding of how God works behind visible circumstances.

## Historical Context

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The incense offering normally took brief minutes. Zacharias's extended time suggested either divine encounter, ritual complication, or worse. The people's marvel indicates their spiritual sensitivity and expectation that God might act in their worship.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does God often work His greatest purposes in hidden, quiet moments?
2. What does this teach about faithful waiting during unexplained delays?
3. How can we cultivate expectancy for God to work even in routine religious observance?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἦν	ὁ	λαὸς	προσδοκῶν	τὸν	Ζαχαρίαν	καὶ
<b>And</b>	<b>waited</b>	G3588	<b>the people</b>	G4328	G3588	<b>for Zacharias</b>	<b>And</b>
G2532	G2258		G2992			G2197	G2532
ἐθαύμαζον	ἐν	τῷ	χρονίζειν	αὐτόν	ἐν	τῷ	ναῷ
<b>marvelled</b>	<b>in</b>	G3588	<b>tarried so long</b>	<b>he</b>	<b>in</b>	G3588	<b>the temple</b>
G2296	G1722		G5549	G846	G1722		G3485

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