

# Luke 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

## Analysis

Zechariah and Elisabeth are introduced as righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all commandments. The Greek 'dikaioi' (δίκαιοι, righteous) indicates their justified standing and moral uprightness. Their blamelessness in observing the law demonstrates that even perfect external obedience cannot guarantee answered prayer—Elisabeth remained barren despite their righteousness. This sets up the theme that God's timing and purposes transcend human merit, and His miraculous intervention comes by grace, not works.

## Historical Context

Zechariah served in the priestly division of Abijah (one of 24 divisions rotating temple service). Priests married within Levitical families, and Elisabeth's Aaronic descent doubly qualified their son for prophetic ministry. Barrenness was considered a divine curse in Jewish culture (Genesis 30:23), making Elisabeth's situation particularly painful for a righteous priestly couple. This echoes the patriarchal narratives (Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah) where God opened barren wombs to accomplish His purposes.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the contrast between Zechariah and Elisabeth's righteousness and their barrenness challenge merit-based thinking about God's blessings?
2. What does God's choice of elderly, childless parents for John the Baptist teach about His sovereign timing and methods?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐγένετο ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως τῆς  
There was in the days of Herod the king G3588 G3588 G3588

Ἰουδαίας ἰερεύς τις ὄνομα Ζαχαρίας ἐκ ἐφημερίας  
of Judaea priest a certain name Zacharias of the course G2449 G2409 G5100 G3686 G2197 G1537 G2183

Ἄβια καὶ ἡ γυνὴ αὐτῆς ἐκ τῶν θυγατέρων Ααρών  
of Abia and wife her of the daughters of Aaron G7 G2532 G3588 G1135 G846 G1537 G3588 G2364 G2

καὶ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτῆς Ἐλισάβετ  
and name her was Elisabeth G2532 G3588 G3686 G846 G1665

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 24:10** (Parallel theme): The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

**Matthew 2:1** (Kingdom): Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

**1 Chronicles 24:19** (Parallel theme): These were the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

**Nehemiah 12:17** (Parallel theme): Of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;

**Nehemiah 12:4** (Parallel theme): Iddo, Ginnetho, Abijah,

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