

# Luke 1:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

## Analysis

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Elisabeth's decisive response—"Not so; but he shall be called John"—demonstrates submission to divine revelation over cultural expectation. Her certainty and the future tense 'shall be' indicate settled conviction based on God's word through Gabriel. That Elisabeth knew the name proves Zacharias had communicated (likely in writing) what the angel commanded. Her willingness to contradict family and community expectations shows that obedience to God transcends social pressure. The name John (Hebrew Yochanan, 'Yahweh is gracious') proclaims the theological meaning of his birth and foreshadows his message of repentance and divine grace. Elisabeth's firmness models that knowing God's will requires standing against even well-meaning opposition.

## Historical Context

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In patriarchal Jewish society, a mother publicly contradicting naming customs—especially without the father speaking—would have been shocking. Elisabeth's boldness demonstrated the strength of her conviction that this name came from God, not human preference.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How can we maintain obedience to God's revealed will despite social pressure?
2. What does the name 'John' (God is gracious) teach about his ministry and message?
3. When is it appropriate to firmly resist even well-meaning counsel?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἀποκριθεῖσα ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ εἶπεν Οὐχί ἀλλὰ  
And      answered      G3588      mother      his      and said      Not      so but  
G2532      G611      G3384      G846      G2036      G3780      G235

κληθήσεται Ἰωάννης

he shall be called      John  
G2564      G2491

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 1:13** (References John): But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

**2 Samuel 12:25** (Parallel theme): And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

**Isaiah 8:3** (Parallel theme): And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz.