

=LITTLE-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS=

Lesson 9

Zacharias

AIM: to teach my pupils the story of Zacharias.

- I. THE WORD “ZACHARIAS” MEANS “JEHOVAH HATH REMEMBERED.” Read Luke 1:5. Zacharias was married to a lady named Elisabeth, whose name means “the oath of God.” These two names together would mean “God hath remembered to keep His promise.” The promise was the birth of a son for whom they had long prayed.
- II. ZACHARIAS WAS A PRIEST. His job was the burning of incense at the altar of incense. We learn about this in Luke 1:8, 9.
- III. ZACHARIAS AND ELISABETH HAD LONG PRAYED FOR A SON AND HAD PROMISED TO DEDICATE HIM TO GOD BEFORE HE WAS EVER BORN. See Luke 1:13. Somebody asked, “When should a child be dedicated?” The answer is: “As soon as the coming of the child is discovered.” It was difficult for Zacharias to believe that he and his wife would have a son! Notice Luke 1:18. Of whom in the Old Testament does this remind you? Of course, we think immediately of Abraham and Sarah.
- IV. ZACHARIAS QUESTIONED THE PROMISE OF A SON BECAUSE OF HIS ADVANCED AGE AND THE ADVANCED AGE OF HIS WIFE. He asked for a sign, and the sign was granted in the form of punishment. Zacharias was smitten with dumbness until the promise was fulfilled. See Luke 1:18-22 and 62-64.
- V. ZACHARIAS WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT; HE PRAISED THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS. We read of this in Luke 1:67-79. His wife, Elisabeth, was also a woman filled with the Holy Spirit. See Luke 1:41.
- VI. ZACHARIAS WAS ADMONISHED TO TRAIN JOHN THE BAPTIST PROPERLY. Notice in Luke 1:15 the things prophesied concerning his son.
- VII. ZACHARIAS AND ELISABETH LIVED IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDA. Read Luke 1:39, 40. You will recall that the virgin Mary went to see Elisabeth. The blessed story about their visit is found in Luke 1:39-56. They were together about three months. What wonderful conversation these expectant mothers had and what blessed fellowship they enjoyed! Would God we could have more mothers like this today! With such preparation for birth, unborn children's lives could be changed and tragedies could be averted.
- VIII. GOD BLESSED JOHN THE BAPTIST WITH A FATHER WHO REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOUSE OF GOD. See Luke 1:21.
- IX. LET US LOOK AT ELISABETH, THE WIFE OF ZACHARIAS.
  1. She was a daughter of the house of Aaron.
  2. She had the same name as Aaron's wife. (Exodus 6:23)
  3. She was a kinsman of Mary, the mother of Jesus.
  4. She was a righteous and a spiritual person. (Luke 1:6)

CONCLUSION: Someone has called our attention to the meaning of names as being so beautiful. Zacharias means, as has been said, “Jehovah hath remembered,” and Elisabeth means “the oath of God” or “the promises of God.” John means “the grace and mercy of God.” Take the names and you have a beautiful story of salvation. God has remembered His oath to send us grace and mercy through His Son, Jesus.