



December 1, 2019

*“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.”*  
Luke 1:11

### **I. The Context (vs. 5 – 7)**

- A. The intertestamental period – “400 silent years”
- B. Under Roman occupation – In the time of “Herod the King” (vs. 5)
- C. In the midst of Jewish apostasy – A priest ... “righteous in the sight of God” (vs. 6)
- D. Despite personal trials – “They were childless ... both very old” (vs. 7)

### **II. The Contact (vs. 8 – 13b)**

- A. Chosen by God to burn incense in the Temple of the Lord (vs. 8 – 10)
- B. Gabriel appeared on the right side of the altar of incense (vs. 11,19)
- C. Zechariah feared (vs. 11); Zechariah doubted (vs. 18)
- D. Gabriel reassured him – “do not fear” – “your prayer has been heard” (vs. 13a,b)

### **III. The Charge (13c – 17)**

- A. Your wife will bear a son and you will name him JOHN (vs. 13c)
- B. He will be a joy to you and many (vs. 14)
- C. He has a divine purpose (vs. 15 – 17)
  - i. He will be great in the sight of the Lord
  - ii. He will be pure in body
  - iii. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit before He is born
  - iv. He will be turn be back to the Lord with the power of Elijah
  - v. He will prepare the way for THE LORD.

### **IV. The Change (18 – 25; 57 - 80)**

- A. Zechariah’s change – from doubt to faith
- B. Elizabeth realized that God has blessed her with His favor
- C. The change in the world – God is sending the Messiah!
  - i. Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit (vs. 67)
  - ii. The Lord has come to His people and redeemed them (vs. 68)
  - iii. “A horn of salvation...from the house of David” (vs. 69)
- D. The charge to John (vs. 76 – 79)
- E. The change in John (vs. 80)