

- I. A tragic situation - 1:5-7
  - Zachariah = God remembers
  - Elizabeth = Blameless and barren
  
- II. An Angel announces John's birth - 1:8-23
  - a. Zachariah served in Temple & people prayed - vv8-10
  
  - b. An Angel appears and Zacharias' terror - vv11-12
    - Fear - Luke 5:26; 7:16; 8:37
  
  - c. Gabriel announces good news to Zachariah - vv13-17
    - Promise of a child - v.13
    - Don't Panic: v30; 2:10; 5:10; 8:50; 12:7,32
    - Personal and national response to John - V14
    - Position and character of John - v.15; cf. 7:28; 1:44
    - Purpose of the child: The Lord's forerunner - v16-17; Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6; Luke 1:76; 3:4-6
  
  - b' Zechariah's unbelief and Gabriel's rebuke - vv18-20
    - People are not to request signs from God - 11:29-30
  
  - a' People waiting, Zachariah's silence & service - vv21-23
    - Numbers 6:24-26
  
- III. Resolution: Barren Elizabeth becomes pregnant - v.24-25
  - Children are a blessing of the Lord - Ps.127:3

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