

Then **an angel of the Lord appeared** to him, standing at the right side of **the altar** of incense. 12 When **Zechariah** **saw him**, he was **startled** and was **gripped with fear**. 13 But **the angel** said to him: **“Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.** Your wife **Elizabeth** **will bear you a son**, and you are to **call him John**. 14 **He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,** 15 for he will **be great in the sight of the Lord.** He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and **he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.** 16 He will **bring back many** of the people of Israel **to the Lord their God.** 17 And **he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”** Luke 1:13–17

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