



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

While Zechariah was in the sanctuary,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him,
standing to the right of the incense altar.
Zechariah was shaken and
overwhelmed with fear when he saw
him.

Luke 1:11-12

NLT

But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid,
Zechariah! God has heard your prayer.
Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son,
and you are to name him John.

Luke 1:13

NLT

You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.

Luke 1:14-15

NLT

And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord.

Luke 1:16-17

NLT

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

Luke 1:17

NLT

Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

Luke 1:18

NLT

Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!

Luke 1:19

NLT

But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

Luke 1:20

NLT

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them.

Luke 1:21-22

NLT

Then they realized from his gestures
and his silence that he must have seen a
vision in the sanctuary.

Luke 1:22

NLT



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
The skies display his craftsmanship.
Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.

Psalm 19:1-2

NLT

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1

NLT



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

“I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

John 20:25

NLT

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

John 20:27

NLT

“You believe because you have seen me.
Blessed are those who believe without
seeing me.”

John 20:29

NLT



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months.

Luke 1:23-24

NLT

“How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed.

“He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”

Luke 1:25

NLT



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

A posture of pride can never
have enough *evidence*.



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

A posture of seeking can never
have enough of *Jesus*.



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

A posture of seeking is a
posture of listening.



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS

When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

Luke 1:57-58

NLT

When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, “No! His name is John!”

Luke 1:59-60

NLT

“What?” they exclaimed. “There is no one in all your family by that name.” So they used gestures to ask the baby’s father what he wanted to name him.

Luke 1:61-62

NLT

He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John." Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

Luke 1:63-64

NLT

Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood,
and the news of what had happened
spread throughout the Judean hills.

Luke 1:65

NLT

Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, “What will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

Luke 1:66

NLT

Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy.

Luke 1:67

NLT



a Thrill of **HOPE**
CHRISTMAS