



TIME OF GRACE®

Gracenotes

guides for personal Bible study

Heroes of Christmas: Elizabeth

Luke 1:32-45: ³² “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.’ ³⁴ ‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’ ³⁵ The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.’ ³⁸ ‘I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May your word to me be fulfilled.’ Then the angel left her. ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!’”

Points to Ponder

1. What can we learn from Elizabeth to help us handle long-term disappointments? What long-term frustration in your life needs to be entrusted to God?
2. What is undeniable about the baby Elizabeth would have in her old age?
3. **Read Luke 1:42,43.** These verses are an amazing expression of faith from Elizabeth. What is she absolutely sure of?

4. Elizabeth grasped on to the plan God had for her. God also has a plan for you. What are some things you can do to better know God's plan for you?

5. No matter what type of Christmas you have or celebration you plan, why is Christmas always merry for those who believe in Jesus?

God asked Elizabeth to believe the impossible—that she would be a new mother in her old age—and she did! She believed God's promises and that God had come in human flesh to save the world.

What else does God say?

John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.