

How were Mary and Elizabeth related?

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist (Lk 1:57–60) and wife of Zacharias (Lk 1:5) was a cousin of Mary, Jesus' mother (Lk 1:36).

Brandon Ridley wrote:

...The story of her miraculous pregnancy is recorded in the opening chapter of Luke.

The Gospel of Luke identifies Elizabeth, whose name means "oath of God," as the wife of the priest Zechariah, "of the division of Abijah" (Luke 1:5). Both Elizabeth and Zechariah were descended from Aaron. The couple lived in "the hill country ... a town in Judah" (Luke 1:39)...

... Mary travels to visit Elizabeth, and when Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting, the baby leaps in her womb (Luke 1:41 NIV). Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth blesses Mary as "the mother of my Lord" and then exclaims, "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her" (Luke 1:42–45 NIV). In this way, Elizabeth and her child are the first persons in the Bible to acclaim Jesus.¹

Mother and child were spirit-filled.

¹ Ridley, B. (2016). Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.