

10 December



Advent 2017

—THE SONGS OF LUKE’S GOSPEL—

*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his
people and has raised up a horn of
salvation for us in the house of his
servant David...”*

—Luke 1:68-69

“THE BENEDICTUS” - LUKE 1:67-79

Background

- Luke 1:5-25 introduces Zechariah and Elizabeth and describes the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist.

The Encounter with the Angel

⇒ Zechariah is encouraged that, like others before, God has heard their prayers and will give them a child.

Gen. 25:21—And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

⇒ Their son will be great before the Lord and will play a role in the deliverance of the people and preparation for the coming King as did Samson.

Judges 13:3-5—³ And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴ Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, ⁵ for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

⇒ Their son’s ministry will fulfill the Word of the Lord spoken through the prophet Malachi.

Mal. 4:5-6—⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Zechariah’s Response: “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years?”

The Consequence

Luke 1:19-20—¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

- (1) His silence would serve as a _____ to him that the Word of the Lord would be accomplished.
- (2) His silence would allow him time to _____ on the teachings of scripture regarding the coming of the Lord and the role of the one who would prepare the way before Him.
- (3) His silence would serve as a sign to _____ that the birth of this child was of great significance.

The Birth of John

- Everything happened just as the angel said that it would.
- Zechariah and Elizabeth obeyed the Word of the Lord and named the boy John.

Luke 1:64-66—⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

The Song of Zechariah

Theme:

⇒ **God has acted *powerfully* for His people. (1:68)**

“visited” →

“redeemed” →

⇒ **God is raising up the promised *Messiah*. (1:69-71)**

Horn Imagery:

Ps. 132:17—There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

Isa. 9:7—Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Ezek. 34:23-24—²³ And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

⇒ **God is doing all of this to fulfill His promises to *Abraham*. (1:72-73)**

⇒ **The goal of all of this is that God’s people might *worship* Him. (1:74-75)**

⇒ **Zechariah’s son will *prepare* the people to receive Messiah. (1:76-79)**

* The people must receive deliverance from their _____ before they receive physical deliverance from their _____.

Isa. 40:3—A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isa. 9:2—The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Isa. 60:1-3—Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Zechariah’s Example of Faith

1. The Lord’s _____ led Zechariah to seek Him so that he might know Him in a deeper way.
2. Zechariah understood the Lord’s will for his son’s life and had taken _____ to heart which would inform the raising of his son.

Questions for Reflection

- Has there been a time in your life when the Lord has disciplined you and that resulted in you knowing Him in a deeper way?
- How am I encouraged by Zechariah’s example of faith?
- Which passages of Scripture can we commit to memory which will allow us to teach our kids and the kids of our church about God’s plans and purposes for their lives?

Suggested Memory Verses:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Galatians 4:4-7