



## The Christmas Prophecy

December 16-17, 2017  
Pastor Joseph Sissac

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Briefly review the divine connection between Jesus, John the Baptist and their parents.
2. Examine the Christmas Prophecy given by Zacharias.
3. FactorPoints

### THE DIVINE CONNECTION

Luke 1:26-27 states, ***“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin [Mary]...”*** The time frame Luke references here is not concerned with the calendar month but with the timeframe of the pregnancy of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. This and several other points provide a clear connection between the birth and life of Jesus, John the Baptist and their parents. Most importantly:

1. They were all used to fulfill the prophetic promises of God.
2. They were all in some way influenced and em**POWERED** by the Holy Spirit.

Because of this our understanding of Christmas shouldn't begin with Mary and Joseph, but with the very clear and intentional connection to another miraculous birth that was a forerunner for Christ.

### THE CHRISTMAS PROPHECY

#### LUKE 1:67-79

After John is born and Zacharias affirmed his name, ***“his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise to God.”*** (Luke 1:64). This caused great astonishment to spread among the people who heard wondering what great things were in store for this child just born. In verse 67, ***“Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied...”***

The Holy Spirit answered the questions in the minds of all the people concerning John. But the vast majority of Zacharias's prophecy is about about God the Father and God the Son, Jesus.

#### The HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS

##### Of the Father:

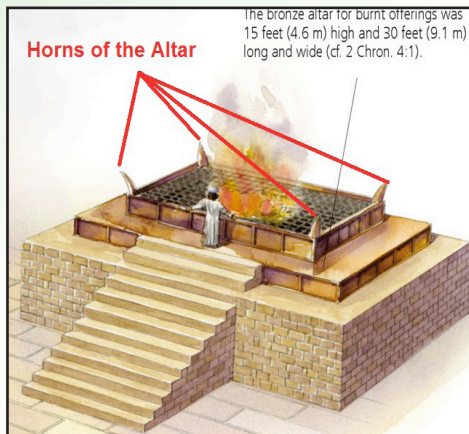
“The Lord God of Israel... He has...”  
“visited us and accomplished redemption for His people”  
“spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets”  
“remember[ed] His holy covenant”

##### Of John the Baptist:

“will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways”

### Of the Son:

“a horn of salvation” [a symbol of strength and courage, a mighty valiant helper, the author of deliverance.]



“the Sunrise from on high” [a raising of light], Ps. 27:1 “*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*”



### Of the Believer:

“Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us”

“grant us that we... might serve Him without fear, in holy and righteousness before Him all our days.”

“shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Why examine this prophecy in relation to the story of Christmas? First, it's because 1) the Bible reveals it as part of the narrative. Second is that 2) this prophecy presents a more complete understanding of why we should celebrate Christmas as the fulfillment of prophecy, the fulfillment of God's promise and the greatest Gift ever received. THE HOLY SPIRIT is responsible for the Preparation, Inspiration, Conception, Revelation and as we'll soon see Preservation of all that Christmas TRULY represents.

### FactorPoints

**He's Here - WORSHIP:** The Lord God is worthy of our praise and adoration because of His faithfulness and “tender mercy” demonstrated through the birth of Christ.

**He Knows - LEARN:** Review Luke chapter 1 in its entirety and look at the verses referenced in the Old Testament. Gain greater insight and appreciation of what God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has accomplished through Christmas.

**He's Able - SERVE:** Seek to serve the Lord all the days of your life without fear and in holiness and righteousness. Be a light unto to others as He has been unto you.