

Series: Prepare Him Room: The King is Coming III

Text: Luke 1:57-80

HI: God visited us in Jesus.

Title: The Benedictus

Hook: The silent game

Date: 12.17.23

Purpose: To herald the sunrise.

FCF: The grace of God visits those who wait for him, though his arrival may not be what we expect.

COR: Humans think horizontally, desiring deliverance from the proximate, which we presume to be the greatest threat. The message of Christ realigns the expectation of salvation, as he delivers sinners from their greatest enemies: sin and death.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: MVM 2 sub-points; Christ's work in salvation

Apologetic: Intro: perhaps the Christmas season has led you into these doors today, searching for hope or community or God. Welcome. Body: v. 68: If you're not a believer, I realize these are major claims, and we hold them to be historical. God visited us in Jesus. This is miraculous. This is central to what we believe. CCL: Death is intimidating, and we do everything we can to euphemize it, stave it off, or ignore it. But the shadow lurks. If you fear death, there is good news for you today. The shadow has been pierced. The darkness need not haunt you. Because God visited us in Jesus, and there is life in his name. Trust in Jesus and find light beyond the darkness.

Text Tone: Celebration

Preaching Voice: Prophet

Form: Hourglass

Call to Worship: Matthew 4:16

Benediction: John 1:14

Outline:

I. The Lord's reputation raises expectation. (57-66)

A. These parents were aligned, this child belonged to the Lord. (57-63)

B. The people were amazed, the Lord was on the move. (64-66)

II. The Lord's visitation provides salvation. (67-80)

A. Christ fulfills God's promise. (67-75)

B. Christ provides deliverance. (71, 74)

C. Christ lights up the darkness. (76-80)

Main Idea:

Subject: What did the birth of John signal?

Complement: The coming redemption of God's people made possible through the visitation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Exegetical Idea: John birth signaled the coming redemption of God's people, made possible through the visitation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Theological Idea: In the arrival of Jesus, God was visiting his people to bring about his promised redemption.

Homiletical Idea: God visited us in Jesus.

Introduction:

"The Benedictus" – "blessing"

READ Luke 1:57-66

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. 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.

I. The Lord's reputation raises expectation. (57-66)

READ Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
 might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness
 until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Michael Wilcock: “Here, unmistakably, is another world breaking into this one.”

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II. The Lord’s visitation provides salvation. (67-80)

Redeemed = “the experience of being liberated from an oppressive situation.”

“Some pollsters and pundits look at the worldliness of the church and conclude that being born again doesn’t make a difference on how people live. We should come to the opposite conclusion: namely, that many churchgoers are not truly born again.” Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in Our Holiness*

“In the therapeutic gospel, Jesus has come to fill the void in your heart. In the biblical gospel, he has come to establish his lordship over your life.” Michael Lawrence, *Conversion*

Conclusion:

C.S. Lewis "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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