

## What Are You Looking At

### Luke 1:57-80

#### Distractions Around Us

**57** Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. **58** And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. **59** And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. **60** And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. **61** And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. **62** And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. **63** And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. **64** And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. **65** And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. **66** And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

#### Promises of God and the Prescriptions of Man

- The birth of John is proof of God's promises.
  - o Psalm 115:3 – But our God *is* in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.
- Many people join in celebrating God's movement, but they bring their own opinions.
- The celebration included neighbors and relatives, but notice the commands that came with the celebration.

#### Path of God and the Perversions of Man

- The people did not receive God's message concerning the name of the child, so they turned to tradition.
- However, when God's man stands on God's Word, the time of discussion is over.
  - o Luke 1:13 – But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
- Zacharias had more reverence for God's direction than the demands of the people.

#### Praise to God and the Perceptions of Man

- God's healing drew Zacharias to praise God rather than pursue his own desires, as in Luke 1:18.
  - o 1 Peter 1:17-20 – **17** And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear: **18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **20** Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,
- Believers should continue in a state of praising God, being in awe of God, and etching the Word of God in our hearts.
  - o Acts 2:43 – And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

- Acts 5:4 – Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.
- The protection of God is found in the presence of God.
  - Acts 11:21 – And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
  - John 15:5 – *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

### **Deliverance For Us**

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; For he hath visited and redeemed his people, sharing what God is doing, 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us In the house of his servant David; 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, Which have been since the world began: 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, And from the hand of all that hate us; 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, And to remember his holy covenant; 73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, 74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies Might serve him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, All the days of our life.

### **God Saw the Misery of the World**

- After demonstrating his faith in God by declaring the child's name would be John, Zacharias was freed from the penalty of his sin.
  - Acts 2:38 – Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Through the Holy Ghost, Zacharias saw the Lord's work in providing a ransom from the sin of the world through salvation.
  - Romans 3:24-25 – 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
  - Matthew 20:28 – *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*
  - Titus 2:14 – Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
  - Hebrews 9:12 – Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

### **God Sent the Messiah for the World**

- The horn represents strength, power, or might.
  - Psalm 132:17 – There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.
  - Romans 1:16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- The promise of Christ's coming dates back to Genesis 3:15.

- Genesis 3:15 – And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
- Salvation from the enemy of sin can only be found in the redeeming power of Jesus
  - Ephesians 1:7 – In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

### God Showed Mercy to the World

- God fulfilled His promise by providing the sacrifice for the sins of the world; each person is responsible for accepting that gift.
  - Romans 4:20-25 – **20** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; **21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. **22** And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. **23** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; **24** But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; **25** Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.
- Accepting the gift of salvation results in reverent service to God without fear.
  - Hebrews 2:14-15 – **14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; **15** And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
  - Isaiah 12:2 – Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: For the Lord JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; He also is become my salvation.
- Accepting the gift of salvation results in righteously serving God forever.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:21 – For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
  - Ephesians 4:24 – And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

### Darkness Before Us

**76** And thou, child, **shalt be called the prophet of the Highest**: For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord To prepare his ways; **77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people By the remission of their sins**, **78 Through the tender mercy of our God**; Whereby **the dayspring from on high hath visited us**, **79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death**, To guide our feet into the way of peace. **80** And **the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel**.

### Salvation for His People

- John's calling and identity were from heaven. His heavenly calling is superior to his earthly treatment.
- The remission of sins is the only path to salvation.
  - Romans 9:5 – Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

### Salvation for Hidden People

- The “day spring” pictures the light that Christ shines upon the darkness.
  - John 8:12 – Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

- Though sin has left men in darkness, sharing the gospel will shine a light for them to see.
  - Ephesians 2:4-5 – **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
  - Luke 2:32 – A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.
  - John 12:46 – *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*
  - John 5:24 – *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
  - John 14:27 – *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
  - John 16:33 – *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

### Salvation for Healing People

- John's growth had to do with his upbringing and where he stayed until it was time for ministry.
  - Ephesians 4:14-15 – **14** That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:
  - 2 Peter 3:18 – But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.
  - Acts 20:32 – And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.