

1. Intro

- We're continuing the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth as reported by Luke roughly 65 years after the supernatural pregnancy of Elizabeth.
- Today, we'll see that God kept His promises to Zechariah and Elizabeth. God kept those promises just like He keeps all of His promises and fulfills all of His prophecies.

2. Text

Luke 1:57-66

- God is a **promise keeper**.
 - **Psalm 145:13** "For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The LORD always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does."
 - God does not forget. He's able to do whatever He says He'll do. He never intentionally ends His relationship with those who have trusted the Gospel!
- The first things out of Zechariah's mouth after 9 months of God's discipline were words of **praise** to God!
 - God's discipline is intended to draw us closer to Him, not to drive us away from Him.
 - **Hebrews 12:5-8** "5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, 'My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.' 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all."
- God performs miracles to advance His **good purposes** among people, not to advance people's **personal comfort**.
 - Awe fell on the crowd as they considered the miracles surrounding John's birth.
 - **Ephesians 2:10** - "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Luke 1:67-75

- Zechariah prophesied about the **future** kingdom when the Messiah (Jesus) will rule on earth from Jerusalem and will **rescue** Israel from their enemies.
 - The Messiah's first coming was to rescue all people who believe in Him from a different kind of enemy: **sin** and **death**.
 - **Isaiah 53:5-6, 10-12**
 - **Matthew 20:28** "For even the Son of Man came not to be served (as a King) but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."
 - **Romans 5:1** "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

Luke 1:76-80

- Zechariah prophesied that John would prepare the way for the Messiah (Jesus), and tell people how to find **salvation** through the forgiveness of their sins.
 - It's always been God's plan to provide a way of salvation from God's penalty for our sins through forgiveness.
 - Thank God for His tender mercy for sinners like us!

3. Application

- God kept His promises to Zechariah and Elizabeth. God is still a promise keeper. We need to know His promises and cling to them! Are you in His Word learning and reminding yourself of His promises to you?
 - **2 Corinthians 5:8**
 - **Romans 8:38-39**