

Zechariah's Song of Salvation (1)

Why did Jesus come? He dwelt among us for the purpose of showing the greatest mercy ever known ... demonstrating the greatest amount of grace possible ... and showing us who God is and what God's original intent in creating us was all about. Matthew 11.5-6 says Jesus came to bring us hope. John says He came to show us God. Ephesians 1 shows us He came to fulfill a plan. Christianity is no accident. It is the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan to redeem mankind.

I. The Breaking of the Dawn

- A. Let's skip ahead to Luke 2.36-38 and learn about Anna the prophetess.
 - 1. 2.38: She testified about what she had seen: to *all who were **looking forward** to the redemption of Jerusalem.*
 - 2. The light was almost ready to end the long night of darkness.
- B. The End of the Old Testament
 - 1. Malachi 4.2: *But for you who fear my name, the **sun** of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and playfully jump like calves from the stall.*
 - 2. But ... then what? 400 years of darkness. No Savior. No Redeemer.
 - a) Luke 1.71: Zechariah describes them as being hated ... for 400 years.
 - b) Luke 1.79: they had been *living in **darkness** and in the shadow of death.*
 - 3. And so ... our text today is a song of salvation. It's a song of praise.
- C. Have we failed to recognize the amount of praise for the coming Messiah, especially in the opening chapters of Luke?
 - 1. Luke 1.46 - Mary, when she finds out she will be giving birth to the Messiah.
 - 2. Luke 2.10-14 - Upon Jesus' birth the **angels** burst forth in praise
 - 3. Luke 2.25-32 - **Simeon** offers praise to God for the Messiah...
 - 4. Our text today is also a sign of God's power on display.
 - a) 1.63 - had been communicating by writing things on a board.
 - b) 1.64 - When John was born, immediately his **mouth** was opened ... and he begins to speak praise.

II. Zechariah's Praise for Mercy

- A. Luke 1.68 - His **visitation**. *Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has **visited** and provided redemption for his people.* Now, let's connect Psalm 8.3-4.
 - 1. This is heaven come down. The supernatural has invaded the natural.
 - 2. God is at work.
- B. Luke 1.69-70 - His **salvation**. *He has raised up a **horn** of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,*
 - 1. The Messiah will come and conquer and destroy the enemy and set his people free.
 - 2. Jeremiah 50.34: *Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of Armies is his name. He will fervently champion their cause so that he might bring **rest** to the earth...*
- C. Luke 1.71-73 - His **compassion**. ... it is also the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.
- D. Luke 1.74-75 - His **reception**. Acceptance. Nearness. God allows us to serve Him **without fear** and live for Him. Adopted into His family.

III. As We Close...

- A. Jesus prepared the way ... blazed the trail ... so you can die with hope.
- B. Do you need to receive His mercy and grace?