

Zechariah's Song of Salvation (2)

Why did Jesus come? He came to bring hope. He came to show us God. And, He came to fulfill a plan. Today, we'll continue our look at what Zechariah said when John the Baptist was born. Zechariah, via inspiration of the Spirit, understood that what was coming to pass was at the pivotal point in history. He understands that what is going on is the direct fulfillment of everything promised in the Old Testament. It truly was the breaking of the dawn.

Today's lesson will look at the last four verses of Zechariah's song of salvation.

I. Forgiveness

- A. Luke 1.76: Who is going to make way for the coming King?
- B. Luke 1.77: John's mission: *to give His people **knowledge** of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.*
 1. Salvation is coming!
 2. Jeremiah 31:34: *No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them—this is the Lord's declaration. For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.*
- C. This experience happens by what a believer brings with him to the baptism ... a repentant heart.

II. Salvation

- A. Luke 1.78a: *Because of our God's merciful **compassion**, the dawn from on high will visit us.*
 1. John's mission ... and Jesus' are the ultimate expression of God's mercy.
 2. God was moved with deep-seated personal feeling ... great pity ... to bring a remedy to our desperate and perilous condition.
 3. Never forget Ephesians 2.4-5: *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us **alive** with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!*
- B. Luke 1.78b-79a: *the **dawn** from on high will visit us to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death,*
 1. *The dawn* refers to the dawning of the heavenly Son who will end the long night created by sin.
 2. Isaiah 9.2-7 is probably on Zechariah's mind.
 - a) 9.2 - *a great **light** has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.*
 - b) 9.4 - *for you have **shattered** their oppressive yoke and the rod on their shoulders,...*
 - c) 9.6 - *for a child will be born for us ... a son will be given to us...*
 3. See also 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.*
 4. Luke 1.78b.... *the dawn will **visit** us.* This visit is for the purpose of salvation. We can connect Isaiah 42.6-7 ... then apply Luke 4.14-21.

III. Peace

- A. Luke 1.79b - *to guide our feet into the way of **peace**.*
 1. They knew no peace under the old ... Isaiah 59.8. Always elusive.
- B. Now what Jesus brought was the promise of peace ... personal peace ... eternal peace.
 1. Isaiah 54:10: *Though the mountains move and the hills shake, my **love** will not be removed from you and my covenant of peace will not be shaken," says your compassionate Lord.*
 2. How is God described in this passage?
- C. We can rest ... because the Savior did the work by paying the price.
 1. Psalm 32:1-2: *How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How joyful is a person whom the Lord does not charge with iniquity and in whose spirit is no deceit!*
 2. The only peace we can experience in this life is what we find in God.

IV. As We Close...

- A. Where would we be had He not come?
- B. Jesus came to fulfill the plan of God and provide redemption to mankind. Do you need Him?