

- **Lk1:5-20** ... Zechariah told his son, John: filled with the Holy Spirit, prophet like Elijah in calling and character, call Israel back to God through baptism ... In these ways he prepares the people to receive the promised Messiah ... **MI3-4, Is40** prophecies Zechariah knows ... Because he doesn't believe, becomes unable to speak until John born ... Zechariah doesn't fully understand the message, but understands God is at work ... When Mary visits Elizabeth, the baby within leaps for joy at Mary's voice ... By the Spirit, Elizabeth praises God for what's happening ... Aware of what's happening, surely Zechariah's mind overwhelmed with prophecies of the Messiah ... The true meaning of his son's birth, and the birth of Mary's son, becomes clearer as the day of their arrival draws closer ... John is born and named, Zechariah receives his voice back, begins to prophesy ... Believes time of covenant fulfillment is here
- **WHY** is God sending His Messiah = 1) fulfill His oath and covenant, 2) bring salvation to those who belong to Him, 3) enable His people to live with Him and through Him
 - **68-71** ... **The Lord has visited** = God taking the initiative to act (**Ex2:24-25**) ... Unlike before, God intends to not only visit but to **take up residence with His people** (**Jn1:14**) ... Covenant to David is being fulfilled: King from David's house, He powerfully achieves the work of salvation, He will sit on the throne and rule forever, **just as the Lord spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets**
 - Zechariah understands the coming of the Messiah as one event, not two separate events ... This misunderstanding continues today in Jewish faith ... To them, their Messiah hasn't yet arrived with salvation – triumph over enemies ... They remain to be oppressed ... To them, when the Messiah arrives, He brings them political and spiritual deliverance – a reality that happens together ... This is what Zechariah is speaking ... But this isn't what Jesus soon reveals
 - **Messiah has come**, and His salvation does deliver us from our enemies and those that hate us ... Our greatest enemy: sin, death, Satan – none of these can claim us or have power over us ... Only power they have is the power we give them ... **2Tm1:7, Rm8:15 – 8:26-30**
 - **72-75** ... Covenant and Oath to Abraham is being fulfilled – **Gn15** ... By God's mercy is the covenant made and kept and fulfilled ... He who swore the oath, fulfills the oath, **because He can never not be who He is** ... In fulfilling the oath and covenant, He grants us the benefits of its fulfillment ... Christ in us, Christ over us, Christ for us ... **vs74-75** recall words the Lord uses in **Gn15&17** to Abraham when making covenant
 - **76-79** ... Zechariah prophesies over his son, repeating what Gabriel spoke and what the prophets spoke concerning John – **MI3-4, Is40** ... Keep in mind, when Zechariah mentions **preparing the way for the Lord**, he's not just quoting scripture, but he's referring to Mary's son as the **fulfillment of this scripture** ... Mary's son, Jesus, is the Lord that John is preparing people to receive as the long-awaited Messiah
 - In a time when no prophets existed, John is raised up by God to be His prophet ... Jesus calls him the greatest of the prophets, because of the message he's called to deliver – the Messiah is here; salvation is at hand ... Return to God and be forgiven of your sin
 - **Dawn from on High** – Messianic name (sunrise, light) – **Is9:2-7, Is42:1,6-7 – Jn1:4-5** ... **Moved by mercy** for those who live in darkness, God sends His Son to expose man's condition and reveal man's salvation ... Enabling His people to live with Him and through Him