

### The Birth of John and the Song of Zacharias

Luke 1.57 Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. 58 When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

\* **How is God** building joy in Luke's Advent account?

59 So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. 60 His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." 61 But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." 62 So they made signs to his father— what he would have him called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled.

\* **What was the** Jewish custom for naming at that time?

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. 65 Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. 66 And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

\* **When is Zacharias'** tongue loosed?

\* **What effect did** these events & Zacharias' song have on people?

67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, 71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace." 80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

\* **1<sup>st</sup> Theme: God in Christ** has \_\_\_\_\_ **his people.**

68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people ... 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

– **How is** God's visitation related to redemption?

Gen 50.24 "God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land"

Mat 1.23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (quoting Isa 7.14)

Heb 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest ... to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

– **Who is** the "Dayspring from on high" and what does he do?

Mal 4.2 "For you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings ..."

Isa 9.2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined ... 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given ...

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> Theme: God in Christ** \_\_\_\_\_ **us.**

69 "And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David ... 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins"

– **How does salvation** relate to redemption?

– "**Remit**" literally means "to \_\_\_\_\_ off."

– **How is remission** of sins pictured on the Day of Atonement? (Lev 16.7-10, 15-16, 20-22)

\* **3<sup>rd</sup> Theme: Salvation in Christ is what the** \_\_\_\_\_ **have been talking about from the beginning.**

70 "As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began ... 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways"

– **Who spoke the** very first prophecy, to whom, and what did it concern?

Gen 3.15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

1John 3.8 ... For this purpose the Son of God appeared, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

– **What special role** did John the Baptist play, and how did he rank with the other prophets?

Lk 7.26 "[John was] more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' 28 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist"

\* **4<sup>th</sup> Theme: God in Christ saves us from our \_\_\_\_\_.**

71 "That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us ... 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life."

– **Who is our** archenemy and the ultimate hater of mankind?

– **What was the** effect of Adam's sin on the human race?

Rom 5.12 ... through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned ... 18 ... through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men ... 19 ... through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners ... 8.7 ... the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Cor 4:4 ... the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Tim 2:25 ... if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Col 1.13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

\* **5<sup>th</sup> Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are what God's covenant and oath to Abraham were all about.**

72 "To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham"

– **In Gen 15.6, Abraham** " \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord, and it was accounted to him as righteousness."

– **Then, God made a \_\_\_\_\_** with Abraham (18).

– **Who passed through** the animal pieces?

Gen 15.6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. ... 9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other ... 17 And ... there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram ...

– **What does it signify** that God alone passed through the pieces?

Heb 9.15 ... [Christ] is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death ... 16 For where there is a testament, there must also ... be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

Rom 8.15 ... you received the Spirit of adoption ... 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

– **In Gen 22, God** \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham, calling him to offer up his son, Isaac.

– **When Abraham obeys,** God stays his hand, and takes an \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham (16-18).

Gen 22.16 ... "By Myself I have sworn," says the LORD, "because you ... have not withheld your son, your only son— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed ..."

– **What is this all about?**

Gal 3.8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." ... 16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.