



Part 2: "Salvation is Here!"

Zacharias: A Song of Salvation

Passage Background: "This hymn is called the Benedictus ("Praise be") because the opening word in the Latin Vulgate translation is *Benedictus*. Whereas the Magnificat (see note on [1:46-55](#)) is similar to a psalm, the Benedictus is more like a prophecy."¹

Luke 1:67-79 (NKJV); 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.

¹ Quote from NIV Study Bible, 2011.

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."

Zacharias' Song-A Song of Salvation

1. As Zacharias responded in f_____ to God's Word, He was filled with God's S_____ (v. 67).

- Filled with the Spirit-This means that Zacharias was led or controlled by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Insight: *filled with the Holy Spirit . . . prophesied.* Prophecy not only predicts but also proclaims God's word. Both Zacharias and Elizabeth ([vv. 41-45](#)) were enabled by the Holy Spirit to express what otherwise they could not have formulated.²

- What is the difference between the baptism and the filling of the Holy Spirit? There is one baptism but many fillings. The baptism of the Holy Spirit happens the moment a Believer is born again. The filling of the Holy Spirit happens in the Believer's life whenever he or she allows the Holy Spirit to lead them, guide them, and walks in obedience to God's Work and God's will.

2. Christmas is all about Divine v_____ -when God visits His people, everything forever c_____ (v. 68-75).

6 Christmas presents for you this year in 2018:

- God rescues and redeems those in captivity (v. 68).
- God raises up a Strong Savior for His people (v. 69).

² Quote from NIV Study Bible, 2011.

Scripture Insight: "Horn" is a symbol for strength and power in the Bible.

2 Samuel 22:3; The God of my **strength**, in whom I will trust;
My **shield** and the **horn** of my salvation,
My **stronghold** and my **refuge**;
My **Savior**, You save me from violence.

- God always keeps His Word (v. 70).
- God raises us above those who are against us (v. 71).
- God shows us mercy in keeping His promises (v. 72-73).
- God sets us free so that we can serve Him in freedom, love, holiness, and righteousness (v. 74-75).

**3. Christmas is all about you taking your place _____ in the story of
genesis _____ (v. 76-79).**

- John the Baptist took his place as the forerunner for the Messiah. -
 - 1) John's job was to prepare the way for people to accept Jesus as their Savior (v. 76).

Malachi 3:1- "Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,"
Says the Lord of hosts.

- 2) John was a prophet who declared the need to respond in faith and repentance to Jesus (v. 77).

Jeremiah 31:31-34; ³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

- Jesus' coming was dawn of bright new day (v. 78-79).
 - 1) Christmas reveals the c_____ of God-His tender mercy towards us (v. 78a).
 - 2) Christmas reveals the l_____ of God-the Dayspring has visited us (v. 78b).

Scripture Insight: Dayspring is a reference to the coming of Messiah (see [Num. 24:17](#); [Mal. 4:2](#)). This Greek word was also used to translate the Hebrew word for "branch" or "sprout," a concept with messianic overtones (see [Is. 11:1-10](#); [Jer. 23:5](#); [33:15](#); [Zech. 3:8](#); [6:12](#)). **To give light ... To guide our feet:** As the Dayspring or the "Rising Sun," the Messiah will provide the light of truth and forgiveness to those blinded by the darkness of their sins.³

Malachi 4:2 (NLT); "But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

- 3) Christmas reveals the m_____ of God-to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death (v. 79a).

Isaiah 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.

- 4) Christmas reveals the p_____ of God-to guide our feet in the way of peace (v. 79b).

Take Home Truth: Christmas is all about divine visitation-Jesus coming to us so that He could take us to Him.

Preview for next week: *Songs of Christmas*, Part 3: *Angels: A Song of Peace*.
Luke 2:8-14

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson Study Bible, 2007.