

The Promise Fulfilled

Luke 1:57-66 (ESV)

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Luke 1:67-68 (ESV)

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
Redeem - to “set free by paying a price.” It can refer to the releasing of a prisoner or the liberating of a slave.

Luke 4:18 (ESV)

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed

Jesus came to bring salvation to those in bondage to sin and death and to pay the ultimate price for our redemption!

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

Luke 1:69-75 (ESV)

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 from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

The prophetic picture here is of an army about to be taken captive, but then help comes and the enemy is defeated. When we trust Christ Jesus to save us we are delivered from Satan’s power, made a part of God’s Kingdom, redeemed and forgiven!

Colossians 1:12-14 (ESV)

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

In Zachariah’s prophetic song we hear that Messiah would come through the line of David a conquering King and from the tribe of Judah to be born in Bethlehem the city

of David. All of the prophetic scripture was coming to fruition and Zachariah saw it and worshiped! In his silence much like Paul in Damascus the scriptures spoke and when his tongue was loosed he sang the Lord's praises.

Luke 1:74-75 (ESV)

that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might **serve him** without fear, ⁷⁵
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Luke 1:76-77 (ESV)

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins

Humanity is in debt to God because we have failed to keep His righteous law and at the same time we are spiritual bankrupt and unable to pay our debt. All have sinned and the wages of sin is death. But God!!! Jesus came and paid our debt for us – “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” – John the Baptist

Luke 1:78-79 (ESV)

because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Humanity was sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death. Jesus brought Light, Life and Peace! It was a dawn of a new day of God's tender mercy.

Matthew 4:16 (ESV)

the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

Zachariah bursted forth in a song after nine months of silence and we get to hear what was in and on his heart.

Application: When we are given opportunities to sit (stay at home orders, health challenges) these are precious moments that the Lord desires us to be still and know! So that we might emerge with a deeper understanding of Him and His will and ways. That we too might sing!

Luke 1:80 (ESV)

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Applications:

1. Mary responded in faith and sang God's praises days later, Zachariah responded in doubt and sang his song months after his discipline. (Heb. 12:7-11)
2. Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith and He always finishes what He starts. (Heb. 12:2, Phil 1:6)
3. God is faithful to fulfill His promises in His perfect time.

Big Idea

When we trust God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises we experience joy that explodes in praise to Him!

Closing Prayer

