

Title: God's Saving Light For Us

Passage: Luke 1:57-80

Introduction:

Main point: Showing God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises.

- God had prophesied many things that actually later happened all throughout history
- Isaiah 46:3-10 (God's sovereignty over all of history)

Isaiah 9b-10

for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Overview: Three promises God fulfilled to show His greatness

I. Promise of a son to Zechariah and Elizabeth (v. 57-66)

II. Promise of healing of Zechariah

III. Promise of Messiah

IV. Key Points/Takeaways

I. Promise of a son to Zechariah and Elizabeth (v. 57-66)

Luke 1:13

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John."

- Names held meaning when given. Could describe a child's appearance or even reflect the parent's profession or preferences/ideas
- John = Yahweh is gracious to us
- God's purpose of John was to announce the presence of the Messiah.

Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

II. Promise of healing of Zechariah (v. 61-66)

Luke 1:20 (Gabriel closing Zechariah's mouth)

And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

Luke 1:63-64

And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.

- Zechariah did not receive his voice back until he named his son John.
- God waited until Zechariah acted on his faith
- When Zechariah finally named his son, showed his faith in God though he initially doubted, God healed him.

Luke 1:68a

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

- After nine months of being silent, Zechariah's first verbal response was praise. Pent-up joy that poured out.
- God's discipline of us is never punitive but instructive.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—*may be found to result in praise and glory and honor* at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

III. Promise of the Messiah

Two preliminary points on Zechariah's song

- every line of this song is a direct quotation or allusion to the Old Testament

Luke 1:69

and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,

- "horn" = referring to the strength of an animal
- "horn of salvation" = display of kingly authority of salvation

Luke 1:68

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people

- "has visited" = show how God has previously visited His people and graciously responds to His people in need

Exodus 4:31

And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

- "Visited and redeemed" in Zechariah's song = who does this refer?
 - Not John the Baptist but pointing to the Messiah

How does this song point to the Messiah?

1. *Anticipation from the line of David*

Luke 1:69-71

and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

2 Samuel 7:16 (God's promise to David)

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne *shall be established forever.*"

Isaiah 9:6 (Isaiah's prophecy of Messiah)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, *Everlasting* Father, Prince of Peace.

Ezekiel 34:11-12 (God Himself will come as the true Shepherd)

“For thus says the LORD God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

2. Anticipation from line of Abraham

Luke 1:73-74

the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

Genesis 17:7

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

- “offspring” = singular word

Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

3. Realize Jesus is the Messiah through work of John

Luke 1:76-79

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:15-16 (God's purpose of John)

for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

Luke 3:3

And [John] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

IV. Key Points/Takeaways

Major turning points in the Bible point to Jesus, the Messiah

- the whole of history of humankind being fulfilled in this One Man: Jesus
- Jesus: fulfilled covenant, temple, land - glorious heaven, spotless lamb

Jesus is central in the Gospel of Luke

Luke 24:27

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Human beings find their greatest importance in pointing to Jesus

John 1:29

The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:28-30

You yourselves bear me witness, that I [John] said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease.

Luke 7:28

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

- How highly esteemed you are in God's sight as you have the greatest privilege of having seen the fullness of the Gospel (life, death, and resurrection of Jesus)
 - Which even John the Baptist never lived on earth to see. (As well as others like Abraham, David, etc.)
- Question: What gives you the greatest importance and purpose?
- Answer: the truth is your greatest importance is pointing out who Jesus is.
- In this Christmas season, continually point to Jesus (Christ is the Messiah)!

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.