

Luke 1:57-80 – The Birth of John the Baptist

Introduction: Review of Zechariah and Elizabeth

1. Both from Priestly line of Aaron, Righteous, Blameless
2. Aged and Barren
3. Gabriel Announces the Birth of John the Baptist
4. Zechariah does not believe, becomes mute

Community Gathering: Elizabeth's Baby is Born (vv 57-66)

1. John the Baptist is Born
2. The Town Reacts with Celebration
 - a. Sign of God's Mercy on Zechariah and Elizabeth
 - b. The Town had a name picked out: Zechariah, Jr.
 - c. Elizabeth says his name will be John
3. The Town Reacts with Stunned Astonishment
 - a. No one in the family has this name
 - b. They try to intervene and go to the father, Zechariah
 - c. Zechariah writes on a tablet, his name will be John
 - d. Zechariah's mouth is loosened and he praises God
4. The Town Reacts with Fear
 - a. Zechariah believed God and submitted to God and His Word – God named the child John, Zechariah agreed
 - b. The mood of the crowd changed – what kind of child will this be?
 - c. This is no mere ordinary visit to a mother & her baby

Main Idea: Christians bless our faithful God for the forgiveness of sins in the Salvation He provides us in His Son, Jesus for it is a tender mercy.

Benedictus (Blessed): Zechariah's Prophetic Song (vv 67-79)

1. Bless be the Lord! Zechariah first gives glory to God (68)
 - a. Worship, Praise, Joy in God expressed
 - b. Does not begin his Song with his son, but God's Son
 - c. Jesus is the Focus of Zechariah's Song
2. The Reason for Zechariah's Blessing God: The Lord has visited His people and Redeemed His people
 - a. 400 years of Silence from God has ended
 - b. God's Visitation: The Lord cares and is still faithful to His promises
 - c. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ: God visits in person
 - d. God's Redemption: Jesus redeemed His people at the Cross – The Sheep purchased by Christ's blood
 - e. How the Lord visits and redeems is by raising up a horn of salvation from the house of David

3. The Horn of Salvation from the House of David (68-75)
 - a. Jesus is the Davidic King and Messiah
 - b. Horn – symbol of strength and power (Psalm 18:1-3)
 - i. Power to Save and Fulfill the Promises of God
 - c. God's Covenant Loyalty
 - ii. Davidic Covenant Fulfilled – an Eternal King Reigns
 - iii. Abrahamic Covenant Fulfilled – In Abraham, all the families of the Earth would be blessed
 - iv. In Christ all promises of God are Yes and Amen!!!
 - d. The Horn was Prophesied of Old (Psalm 132:17)
 - i. Prophets declared it would happen (Zech 12:10)
 - ii. The Apostles declared Christ fulfilled the prophets (Romans 1:1-2, Hebrews 1:1-2)
 - e. The Horn was a Reference to God Himself (2 Sam 22:3)
 - f. Jesus has Power to Save, Power to Destroy
 - i. God's Enemies would be Put to Shame (2 Sam 22:4, Psalm 18:3, 132:17-18)
 - ii. Jesus fights for His people, defeating our enemies
 1. Satan – (1 Peter 5:8)
 2. Sin – (James 1:14-15)
 3. Death – (Romans 5:12)
 - g. Purpose of Christ Redeeming His People: Godliness and Godly Service
 - i. We are justified by the Blood of Christ to serve the Lord freely without Fear
 - ii. Fearful Service: Driven to placate God's Wrath by performance driven religion is bondage
 - iii. God makes us Righteous through Jesus' blood; We are justified by Christ's atonement on the Cross
4. John the Baptist, The Prophet of the Most High God (76-80)
 - a. The Mouthpiece of God, declaring the Word of God – Repentance and Faith
 - b. The Forerunner of the Messiah – He points to Jesus
 - c. Prepares for the Messiah: Proclaiming Repentance from Sin; the Way of Salvation is repentance and faith
 - d. The Herald of Salvation – A preacher calls out Sin, the ways of man and points to the way of Salvation: Christ!
5. God's Tender Mercy: God's grace points out Sin and points out Hope in Christ for the forgiveness of Sin
 - a. The Rising Sun is a description of Salvation (Malachi 4:2)
 - b. The SON ROSE from the Dead and defeated the Darkness
 - c. Sitting in Darkness, Spiritually Dead
 - d. Jesus calls out the name of His Sheep out of the Darkness and Order our steps into the way of Peace
 - e. Jesus is the Light of the World drawing Us out of Darkness