

— Luke 1.57-80 —
Luke's Advent of Christ 4
The Birth of John

◆ 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.

• God is building: 1) _____ from diverse witnesses re His Son Jesus and his forerunner John; and 2) _____ at these glad tidings.

◆ 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.

• God assigning John's name indicates that he will play a special _____ in preparing people for Messiah Jesus. It is only when Z _____ God in naming his son John that his tongue is finally loosed.

◆ 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.

◆ 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

75 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
79 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."

• Z's song has a chiasmic structure, common to Hebrew poetry, in which the 2nd half _____ and amplifies the 1st half, in this case stating and answering **five themes** regarding God's salvation:

• 1) Vs 68, 78: God in Christ has _____
His people. The purpose is to _____ them.

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

• Redeem means to _____ from a helpless situation.
God did not redeem Israel from _____ in Exodus.
Christ did not redeem us from _____ in the NT.

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 [I]n 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.

• The "Dayspring from on high" is the "_____ of Righteousness" who rises "with healing in his wings." When the sun rises, the _____ springs forth.

Mal 4.2 [T]he Sun of Righteousness shall arise 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; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end

• 2) Vs 69, 77: God in Christ _____ us. Salvation in the Bible is a virtual synonym for _____. The Bible speaks of three helpless situations: 1) We have a sin _____ we are helpless to pay; 2) We have a judgment of _____ hanging over us that we are helpless to get out from under; 3) We have been taken _____ by a slave master that we are helpless to get free of. God thru Christ visits, redeems, and delivers us from all three – that's what salvation _____. The first step is _____ of sins, for it was Adam's first sin and all our sins on top that led to all three of our _____ situations. Remission is the

removal, literally the “_____”
of Adam’s sin and ours.

Heb 2.17 [I]n 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.

Lev 16.7 He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD ... 15 Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil ... and sprinkle it on the mercy seat ... 21 Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, ... and shall send it away into the wilderness ... 22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land

Isa 53.6 [T]he LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Ps 103.12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

• **3) Vs 70 & 76: Salvation in Christ is what the _____ have been talking about from the beginning.**

Gen 3.15 “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.”

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

Acts 10.42 “[I]t is He who was ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

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) Vs 71 & 74: God in Christ saves us from our _____.** And from all who hate us, beginning with the ultimate one who hates us – our arch-enemy, the _____. He is the one who led our first parents into sin, thus bringing us under condemnation and into bondage to _____. The Bible teaches that in our fallen, unregenerate state, we still bear the image of God passively, but we no longer actively _____ God by reflecting and imitating His character, His loves, His will, and His example.

John 8.44 “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”

Rom 8.7 [T]he 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.

2Cor 4.4 [T]he 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. [ESV]

2Tm 2.25 [P]erhaps 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) Vs 72-73: Christ and the gospel are what God’s _____ and _____ to Abraham**

and the fathers were all about. Vs 72 & 73 refer to two monumental moments in God’s dealings with Abraham:

- 1) Gn 15, when God first made a covenant with Abraham;
- 2) Gn 22, when God swore an oath to Abraham.

Gen 15.9 So He said to [Abram], “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

Heb 9.15 [Christ] is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death ... that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 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 8.16 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

Gen 22.16 “By Myself I have sworn,” says the LORD, “because you have done this thing, and 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, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Gal 3.8 [T]he 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.

• **Conclusion:** There is one central storyline in the Bible, culminating in _____. When Gal 4.4 says that “God sent forth His Son” “when the fullness of time had come,” it’s not saying that it was “about time!”, but that everything that had happened, not only in the Bible, but in all of history, was leading up to that point: The birth of God’s _____.