

Jesus: Our Horn of Salvation! (Luke 1:57-80)

(57) 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. (67) 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 (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 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. (76) 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, (78) 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." (80) And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

(1) ...the serpent... (Gen 3:1)

(8) ...Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1Pet 5:8)

(2) The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Ps 18:2)

(3) A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isa 40:3)

(2) For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. (Isa 60:2)

(2) But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping... (Mal 4:2)

(2) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. (Isa 9:2)

(18) ...do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, (19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Eph 5:18-20)

(17) "...in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; (18) even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18)

(7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (Eph 1:7)

1. God's timing is perfect. Align your heart and life with His plans and purposes and you will find great peace and joy.
2. Elizabeth gave birth to and raised a Spirit-filled son who would be great before the Lord. Only the Holy Spirit can make a person great. God often uses godly mother's and father's to raise great children, but God can work in a person's life no matter their background. You too can live a Spirit-filled life and do great things for the glory of God.
3. We need God's mercy, His love for the suffering and those in misery. God is so merciful to His people, and His mercy marks those who have received it. Let God's great mercy toward you overflow to others in such a way that those who live around you and who are part of your family see How good God is. Because of God's mercy we can have deep and abiding joy, and God can use us that others may have deep and abiding joy as well.
4. Elizabeth is a great example of joyful obedience to God even if neighbors, friends, and relatives misunderstand her decisions. Elizabeth shows us that God's will superseded the will of other people, even close people, even well meaning people.
5. Zechariah learned his lesson from 9 months earlier. He would no longer let doubt and unbelief control him. Through the Lord's loving discipline he had learned to trust God, His Word, His promises, His power, His love. God had done the great work of soul surgery on him with. Zechariah found freedom through faith and obedience as God's child. We too can grow in freedom as God's children through faith and obedience. God wants us to trust Him no matter what He calls us to or tells us to do.
6. God free's His people so that they might live for His glory, praise, and worship. God free's His people so that they might serve Him will all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. God free's His people so that they might know His love in deeper ways, His joy in great ways, and His peace that passing all understanding. Do you bless God with your lips because of the great mercy and freedom He has given you? Do you love and serve God with your words towards others and toward Him?
7. When God does great things for His people and through His people it does not take long for these things to spread among people throughout the surrounding area and even throughout the world. The people knew that John would be used by God in great ways. They kept their eye out

- for him as he grew. Are you seeking to live your life in such a way that the glory and fame of Christ spreads through your life testimony and witness?
8. Do you want the hand of God on your life? The hand of God represents His powerful presence, His blessing, His favor/grace. Do you ask God for His hand of blessing? If God's hand is on you nothing can stop you from fulfilling His purpose for your life.
 9. Living a Spirit-filled life is the only way to serve with God's power, wisdom, and blessing. Are you open to the work of the Holy Spirit? Do you pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit? To speak, preach, teach, or share God's Word with prophetic power we need to be led by and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Will you pray for this power?
 10. Evidence of the Spirit's filling in your heart is a life of Bible intake and meditation, thanksgiving, praise, singing, worship, holiness, righteousness, and service. We see an example of this in Zechariah's song (The Benedictus).
 11. God has come to us in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has paid the price of our redemption (to be bought back from slavery). Salvation is found in Him alone, His perfect life, death, and resurrection. Jesus is our horn (symbolizing an animal's strength) of salvation. This horn is a battle horn used to defeat our enemies of Satan (the roaring lion), sin, death, hell, demons, and those people who serve the devil and his purposes. Jesus has won the war for us and He fights our battles even now. Nothing can touch you without His loving permission and purpose. Jesus is our Warrior King. Jesus fulfills all Old Testament prophecy and types. Jesus saves us from our enemies and from all who hate us. Jesus shows great mercy and grace to us because of His great love. Once we enter into covenant relationship with Christ nothing can take us away from Him or separate us from His love. Jesus sets us free to love and glorify God and serve Him forever and ever. Jesus frees us so that we might grow in holiness and righteousness, and live in freedom from sin, no longer enslaved. You don't have to live enslaved to sin.
 12. John the Baptist would be the prophet of the Most High God (El Elyon). He will be the forerunner for Christ, pointing all people to Jesus. John was a Jesus man in every way. John was a real man, who was single, and lived with purpose, intentionality, a goal, a vision, and mission. It was not his own, but God's will he lived for. John wanted people to know the way of salvation, to know Jesus Christ. John wanted people to find forgiveness of sins in and through Jesus. John wanted people to know personally the tender mercy of God. Do you point people to Jesus with your words and deeds? Are you a Jesus man or woman? Men, do you live out Christian manhood whether you are married or single? There is no greater knowledge than the knowledge of salvation. Not just cognitive or theoretical knowledge, but personal and experiential knowledge that results in a fundamental change of heart and behavior (repentance). Do you have that knowledge and do you pass that knowledge on to others? Have your sins been forgiven, and if so, how are you intentionally helping others find forgiveness in Jesus? If you have received the tender mercy of God, are you expressing that tender mercy to others, especially other Christians?
 13. Jesus is the Sunrise From On High. Jesus brings light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Jesus' light dispels darkness in your life, mind, and eternity. Jesus' light destroys death and hell. Jesus' light leads us on the path of peace. You can have deep peace through Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace, both now and forever. Do you look to Jesus for all you need?
 14. Are you growing in strength of spirit? Are you intentional about your spiritual growth? Think and pray about being a part of a small group this Spring, a Christ Fellowship College Class, a disciple-making relationship, etc. Jesus saves us and Jesus grows us. Keep looking to Jesus and keep serving Him! Look through and pray over the sheet passed out in worship titled, "Areas of Service."