

The Song of a Soul Set Free

December 1, 2024 ▪ Nick Braitto

God has proven Himself completely _____. (68-70, 72-73)

God has decisively _____ over our enemies. (69, 71, 74a)

God's total _____ of His people has begun. (74b-79)

Luke 1:67-80

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. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are one or two things you were thankful for this past week?

Read & Discuss: Luke 1:67-80

1. Zechariah gives this prophecy just after the birth of his son, though most of what Zechariah says is not about his son. What does his prophecy emphasize? Why would these themes mean so much to Zechariah?
2. In verse 68, Zechariah uses the prophetic voice, speaking in past tense regarding events that have not yet happened. Do you find it helpful to speak in this way about things God has promised? Why or why not? What are some things we can say with confidence God *will* do, even though they have yet to be done?
3. Zechariah traced the coming of the Messiah to promises God made to God's people. Where do you see evidence of this in Zechariah's words? How does faith in a promise-keeping God give you hope and endurance? What are some promises of God that you're really glad He's given us?
4. Verse 74 mentions serving God "without fear." What does serving God without fear mean? How does this resonate with your life today and how can we apply this in our service to God?
5. Verses 71 and 74 include several references to being saved from our enemies. What enemies do you think Zechariah was referring to, and how do his words relate to our spiritual enemies today? In what ways are our spiritual enemies defeated? How is it helpful for you to know this is so?
6. In verse 76 we're told the role of John the Baptist was to prepare people for the coming of the Messiah. How did John do that? (*Read Luke 3:1-18.*) How can we fulfill a similar role today? What are some specific things we can do to help people see their need for a Savior that are effective in today's culture?
7. Zechariah speaks twice of the mercy of God (vv. 72, 78) as a motive of God in sending the Messiah. How would you describe the role of mercy in the coming of Jesus? (*See 1 Peter 1:3 and Ephesians 2:4-6.*)
8. In verses 78 and 79 Zechariah uses poetic language to describe the role of the Messiah in the world. How would you explain each of these phrases in more easily understood words?
 - a. "the sunrise shall visit us from on high"
 - b. "give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death"
 - c. "to guide our feet into the way of peace"

Apply: How can you incorporate the themes of trust, victory, and transformation from Zechariah's song into your life this week?

Pray: Ask God to help us rejoice in all that Zechariah rejoiced in, while using us to help make our Savior known.