

**Advent Sunday ~ Sunday, December 3, 2017**  
**“The Songs of Christmas ~ Benedictus: The Song of Zechariah”**  
**Luke 1:67-79**

The tradition of \_\_\_\_\_ at Christmas is as old as Christmas itself. The gospel of Luke describes several of the characters in the Christmas story responding instantly to their part in God’s plan with expressions of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron.” (Luke 1:5)

There was 400 years of \_\_\_\_\_ between the Old and New Testaments –400 years of God’s people \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said; ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord.” (Luke 1:11-15)

“Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers.” (Malachi 4:5-6)

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and redeemed his people...” (Luke 1:68)

Come = *episkeptomai* =

It has the connotation of seeing someone in a bad situation and \_\_\_\_\_ in order to help.

It can also be translated as:

“The Word became flesh dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

**ZECHARIAH’S SONG & THE COMING OF JESUS**

**#1. Zechariah sings of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ purpose.**

- **The price to free us is \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...he has come and redeemed his people.” (Luke 1:68)

Redemption = apolytroton =

It is also a theological meaning:

“God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13)

Zechariah sings that God has visited us, emphasizing that His \_\_\_\_\_ for us has moved Him to draw near. And the reason He comes is to redeem us, which is rescue at a \_\_\_\_\_ price. God has come at extreme \_\_\_\_\_ to Himself to free us from the slavery of sin.

- **The \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish our salvation is all God’s.**

“He has raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of his servant David.” (Luke 1:69)

We have a Mighty \_\_\_\_\_ who has the power to finish what He starts for us. The prophets foretold of a Messiah who would save God’s people—Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of that prophecy and through His life, death, and resurrection, saves the world from sin and death.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **over our enemies is assured.**

“...to rescue us from the hands of our enemies.” (Luke 1:71)

Zechariah’s focus is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. God will deliver His people from \_\_\_\_\_ tyrants. More importantly, He will deliver His people from worse enemies:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd and He not only saves us, He keeps us from harm; He guides and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

“And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.” (2 Corinthians 1:10)

- **The erasing of all our \_\_\_\_\_ is certain.**

“...to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.” (Luke 1:77)

Through Jesus' death on the Cross we are \_\_\_\_\_ for every sin that we've committed and will commit. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to God and brought into relationship with Him.

"Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins." (Acts 13:38)

Zechariah is telling us that God didn't visit this planet simply to see how we were doing—He \_\_\_\_\_ how we were doing. That's why He came! We were in \_\_\_\_\_, lost in darkness, so God came to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

## #2. Zechariah sings of God's \_\_\_\_\_ fulfilled.

- **Promised by the \_\_\_\_\_.**

"As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old..." (Luke 1:70)

"So the Lord himself will give you this sign: A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel—God Is With Us." (Isaiah 7:14)

- **Cherished by \_\_\_\_\_.**

"He has shown the mercy promised to our forefathers." (Luke 1:72)

- **Guaranteed by \_\_\_\_\_.**

"To remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham." (Luke 1:73)

Zechariah is telling us something that makes God \_\_\_\_\_ from all other contenders—He establishes His Lordship over time for us by \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to promises that the passing of time in no way diminishes. Zechariah's point is clear—God is now doing what He \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

## #3. Zechariah sings about transforming \_\_\_\_\_.

"that we might serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness all our days." (Luke 1:74)

Zechariah sings of the \_\_\_\_\_ that the Messiah will bring to the lives of those who follow Him.

- Jesus came so that we who were \_\_\_\_\_ in sin might be lifted up into the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God.
- He came so that we who served a different master might \_\_\_\_\_ God, our Creator.
- He came so that we who \_\_\_\_\_ facing God might be \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

- He came so that we who felt the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives from all purpose might live \_\_\_\_\_.
- He came so that we who once couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ God might be pleasing to Him \_\_\_\_\_.
- He came so that we who were \_\_\_\_\_ might have our lives \_\_\_\_\_ to God and His ways and be presented to Him—a spotless, \_\_\_\_\_ bride.

"And so we are transformed much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Salvation leads to \_\_\_\_\_ and sanctification leads to \_\_\_\_\_ gives us \_\_\_\_\_ so that we can live for His glory.

## #4. Zechariah sings about unmatched \_\_\_\_\_ and blessings.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **in the darkness.**

"the dawn from on high will break upon us." (Luke 1:78)

This image not only refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus will bring into the world, but the new \_\_\_\_\_ and fresh \_\_\_\_\_ we have in Him.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **to those condemned to death.**

"To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow death..." (Luke 1:79)

Because of Jesus, death doesn't have the \_\_\_\_\_ word in our lives—and we can have \_\_\_\_\_ because through the power of God's love for us, God has the final word—and that word is \_\_\_\_\_.

Because of Jesus we can view death not as an ending, but as a \_\_\_\_\_; we can face it with \_\_\_\_\_ instead of fear.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **for those who have lost their way.**

"...to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78)

It's easy for us to get \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ from God's path; however, Scripture promises that when this happens, we're not \_\_\_\_\_—that Jesus is with us—to be our guide and to bring us home.

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus makes.