

## “Prophesy of Praise” (Lu. 1:68-79)

1. Personal Salvation (68)
  - a. Zechariah rejoiced first and foremost of Jesus before he did John, his own son.
  - b. God personally came “visited” His people. In Luke’s Gospel this vocabulary is used in reference to the arrival of the eschatological era when God delivers Israel (Luke 1:78; 7:16; 19:44) while providing a redefinition for his own people (Acts 15:14-17).<sup>1</sup>
  - c. He personally came and bore our sins to redeem us! 1 Jn. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:9.
2. Powerful Salvation (69a)
  - a. “Horn” = power. The power of salvation arrived in an unconventional manner.
  - b. Christ demonstrated supreme power through faith, humility, knowledge, wisdom, and sacrifice. It was nothing less than the work of Jesus’ atoning sacrifice which secures salvation for those who trust in Him.
3. Promised Salvation (69b-74a)
  - a. Not unlike Mary’s Magnificat, Zechariah employed an OT referent in every verse of his song/poem.
  - b. In 69b-74a, he recalls the promises of old and claims that God is faithful to them and, indeed, has fulfilled them in Jesus.
  - c. Those who are still looking to a geographical inheritance of Palestine have missed the nature and scale of the promised salvation foretold by the Prophets. 2 Cor. 1:20. Bible outline in 5 points: Jesus predicted (OT), presented (Gospels), preached (Acts), explained (Epistles), & expected (Revelation).
  - d. The nature of Jesus’ first personal visitation was spiritual redemption (v. 77 cf. Isa. 53:5).
  - e. The scale of Jesus’ second appearing is global, indeed cosmological (Acts 3:21; Ro. 8:21).
4. Perfect Salvation (74b-75)
  - a. The ‘redemption’ spoken of in v. 68 is primarily spiritual and thus we no longer need to fear the terrible repercussions of erroneous sacrifices but rather remain righteous “before Him all our days.”
  - b. In Christ alone are you perfectly righteous!
5. Prepared Salvation (76-79)
  - a. Precursor (76) God has the beginning and the end prepared for those who truth in Him. John was the prophesied forerunner (Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1) who had the unspeakable privilege to go before the LORD Most High!
  - b. “Zechariah’s own story, of nine months’ silence suddenly broken at the naming of the child, is a reflection on a smaller scale of what was going on in the Israel of his day. Prophecy, many believed, had been silent for a long time. Now it was going to burst out again, to lead many back to a true allegiance to their God. What had begun as a kind of punishment for Zechariah’s lack of **faith** now turns into a new sort of sign, a sign that God is doing a new thing. ¶ Luke’s long first chapter holds together what we often find easier to keep separate. At point after point he has linked his story to the ancient biblical record of Israel, to the patriarchs, kings, prophets and psalms. He is writing of the moment when the centuries-old story was going to come round a corner at last, out of darkness into sudden light.”<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Prophets (77) Like John, we are to herald the tidings of comfort and joy. The Gospel of Jesus is the “knowledge of salvation by the remission of [our] sins.”
6. Passionate Salvation (78-79)

<sup>1</sup> Pao, D. W., & Schnabel, E. J. (2007). [Luke](#). In *Commentary on the New Testament use of the Old Testament* (p. 263). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, UK: Baker Academic; Apollos.

<sup>2</sup> Wright, T. (2004). [Luke for Everyone](#) (p. 19). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

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- a. God’s ‘tender mercy’ is His impetus for such an unspeakable gift (2 Cor. 9:15).
- b. He gives light to those in the darkness (Isa. 9:2) and peace in the shadow of death (Ps. 23:4).
- c. Have you seen the rising sun or are you in darkness? Does the light of Christmas come and vanish or do you have the light of Christ w/in you? Do you have inner peace with the Creator? Jesus already came to the Cross for you. He will visit you here and now if you but trust Him. He is mighty to save. He has fulfilled every requirement of righteousness for you!

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When we considered Mary’s song of praise, we saw what God is like. He is a mindful, mighty, merciful, and methodic being. As we consider Zechariah’s poem of praise, we see what God has done for us. He has planned, promised, prepared, and performed, a powerful, perfect provision of peace for those who put their faith in His person and work. Such is a salvation that keeps on giving and increasing. Peace with God is not something that only comes around at Christmas time and then vanishes with the worries of a new year. The good news of Jesus is knowing you have been redeemed personally and completely by God Himself!