

Series: The Child of Promise & Fulfillment – Part 3

Second Sunday in Advent – 2021

Saturday, 12/4 at 4:00 & Sunday, 12/5 at 9:00



Text: Luke 1:57-75 NET

**Advent Wednesdays: Service at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Our current series is called: The Child of Promise and Fulfillment:

- **Part 1** – We focused on the tremendous love of God the Father to send His Son *to pay our adoption price!*
- **Part 2** – Dr. Giessler focused on God the Father, *speaking through Malachi*, about 400 BC, to promise His messenger, *John the Baptizer*, and, also, *Jesus!*
- **Part 3** – We now jump back about 2,000 years to  
➡ touch on the circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptizer and ➡ focus on the words spoken by Zacharias, the father of John, about Jesus.

1. **The Birth of John the Baptizer:** Keep in mind that the OT prophesied that an Elijah-type prophet would be sent to prepare the way for the Messiah.

- a. Conception: About six months before Mary conceived Jesus, *the angel Gabriel appeared to a priest named Zacharias*. He was informed that he and his wife Elizabeth, *though beyond the childbearing years*, would conceive and bear a son. Since Zacharias did not believe Gabriel, *he was unable to speak until the day John was named*.
  - b. Joy: When Elizabeth gave birth: **“Her neighbors and relatives... shared her joy” (Luke 1:58)**.
  - c. Naming: According to God’s command, John was circumcised and named when he was eight days old. Even though those who came to circumcise the baby assumed he would be named after his father, both Elizabeth and Zacharias made it clear that he was to be named John – *as God had commanded through Gabriel*.
  - d. Amazement: As soon as they both agreed on John: **“...Zacharias' speech was restored, and he began to speak, praising God” (Luke 1:64)**. Everyone who heard what happened were amazed! *Those who pondered those events in their hearts were asking: “What is this child going to be? For it was clear that the Lord's hand was with him” (Luke 1:66)*.
2. **Zacharias Prophesied about Jesus**: So, right when everyone was wondering about John, *the Bible says that* **<sup>67</sup> [John’s] father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he prophesied:** // In other words, *by the Holy Spirit, “he [brought] to light what was concealed and outside the possibility of naturally acquired knowledge” (Friberg, BW)*. Zacharias said:
- a. <sup>68</sup> **“Praise the Lord the God of Israel [Why?],  
 ➔ because He has visited His people,**

➔ **and has prepared a ransom for them.**

- i. Bad news: All ✦ have sinned, ✦ have earned death, and ✦ are helpless to escape. As a kidnapper holds captive and demands a ransom, *so all people were being held captive by their sins!*
- ii. Good News: God VISITED His people to HELP His people! How? *By preparing a RANSOM for them!* Think about the misery of kidnap victims: ✦ held against their will, ✦ held in horrible conditions, ✦ a ransom is demanded, and ✦ death is threatened. *But then a savior rises to prepare a ransom!*

b. <sup>69</sup> **He** has raised up a **Horn of salvation** for us in the family of **His** servant David, <sup>70</sup> as **He** said long ago through His holy prophets

➔ <sup>71</sup> **that He** would save us from our enemies

➔ **and from the power of all who hate us.**

- i. Horn: A strong animal can cause us to fear, even more so *an animal with a horn*; so, **horn of salvation** is a **powerful salvation** to save us from our **powerful sins**. The **Horn** is **Jesus**, a descendant of King David. God spoke through His prophets, *such as Moses, Isaiah, and Micah*, to tell us about His Son.
- ii. Salvation: Our greatest enemies are sin, death, and the devil; they are **powerful**, and we are **powerless**, but Jesus has conquered them all. Now, God is calling everyone to repent and share in Jesus' victory!

c. <sup>72</sup> **He** wanted to be merciful to our fathers and remember **His** holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath **He** swore to our father Abraham—

➔ <sup>74</sup> to rescue us from our enemies

➔ and to let us serve **Him** without fear <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before **Him** all our life.

i. Merciful: Our sins deserve eternal punishment, but God, *in His mercy*, held it back from us and, *instead*, released it upon His Son. God did that in connection with the covenant He made with Abram, that “*in you [Abram] all the families of the earth will be blessed*” (Gen. 12:1 NAU).

ii. Serve without fear: Our sins should make us fearful, *BUT WE NEED NOT FEAR!* Why? Yes, we FEEL our sins, but, in Christ, *THEY NO LONGER CONDEMN US!* So, now, we are called to ♣trust in God for EVERYTHING, ♣serve God in ALL THINGS, and ♣fear absolutely NOTHING!

### Conclusion:

- Truth – We were all kidnapped and helpless to escape!
- Relevance – God visited us to prepare our ransom—Jesus!
- Inspiration – We are now set free to serve without fear!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, in Your great love and power, You have set us FREE – *by gifting us with faith to trust in Jesus for eternal life!* Now, help us to serve You all our days!

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**Facebook:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Podcast-listen:** Benefit from the Bible  
**Address:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134; **Phone:** 440-845-2230