

Home Group Helps

Luke 1:57-80

Blessed Be . . .

I. A Blessed Birth (v.57-66) – ⁵⁷ Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her. ⁵⁹ And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother answered and said, “No indeed; but he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, “His name is John.” And they were all astonished. ⁶⁴ And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he *began* to speak in praise of God. ⁶⁵ Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child *turn out to be*?” For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

II. Blessings to God (v.67-75) – ⁶⁷ And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: ⁶⁸ “Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, ⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant– ⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old– ⁷¹ Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; ⁷² To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, ⁷³ The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, ⁷⁴ To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

III. Blessings to John (v.76-80) – ⁷⁶ “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; ⁷⁷ To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, ⁷⁹ TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace.” ⁸⁰ And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

1. Launching Question(s):

- How can we bless God?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Why does Luke devote so much material to information related to John the Baptist?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- You will recall that Zechariah was struck dumb when he did not believe what the angel Gabriel said regarding the birth of his son. How, then, might it be significant that Zechariah did not receive back his voice until he told (by writing) those gathered that the baby’s name would be John, not Zechariah?
- Luke tells us that upon witnessing and hearing about the miraculous birth of John and the loosening of Zechariah’s tongue that, “Fear came on all those living around them.”

- What does the fear of God look like for an unbeliever?
- What does the fear of God look like for a believer?
- Why is there a difference between the two?
- Zechariah blessed the name of the Lord because, “He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people” (v.68).
- What is redemption?
- How is it accomplished in Christ?
- Who benefits from redemption?
- He also blessed God because God “remember(s) His holy covenant” (v.72).
- How does Christ fulfill some of the Old Testament covenant promises?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Which one of these three aspects of trusting the Lord’s work (faith, questions, and patience) do you need to grow in and why?

5. Application Question(s):

- How can you bless God this week?

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