

LUKE Lesson 3

The Song of Mary / The Prophecy of Zacharias: Chapter 1:46-80

22 June 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

VS 47 Though Mary was facing some very difficult times, her spirit was still able to rejoice in God her Savior.

VS 49 [God] **“hath done to me great things.”** If we would focus on that fact instead of on our petty problems, we’ll be praising a holy God every day.

VS 50 God has shown you some mercy when you deserved condemnation. As a result of His mercy, you are going to raise your children to fear God and stay away from sin.

51-53 The Bible teaches, from beginning to end, that God is against the proud man, and God honors the humble man. Be humble, no matter what men may say or do to you, remembering that one day you will be ruling and reigning with Christ (1 Jn 3:2, Rom 8:17, 2 Tim 2:12, 1 Cor 6:2-3).

54-55 **“Holpen”** is “help” past tense: “helped.” But it’s more descriptive than that; it also tells you that God **continues** to help just as he did in the past. The help that Mary refers to is the promise that Messiah would come from the seed of Abraham. (Micah 7:20, Galatians 3:16, Acts 2:39).

56-59 Elisabeth gave birth to John the Baptist. He was circumcised on the eighth day. Doctors now know that the eighth day of a baby’s life is the best day to perform a circumcision due to the healing advantages in the child’s body on that particular day.

59-64 The family assumed they would name the baby Zacharias. When Zacharias informed them that his name would be John, his ability to speak was restored and he praised God.

65-66 Double application: **“The hand of the Lord was with him”** could refer to either Zacharias or John.

67-75 **The prophecy of Zacharias** reveals again that the Jews were not looking forward to the cross, but they were looking for a deliverer to get them out of bondage and make them the head of the nations. They wanted to be **“saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us”** (vs 71). They weren’t looking for someone to save them from their sins; they were looking for someone to save them from Rome.

Christians today get it backwards. They think we’re supposed to “Bring in the Kingdom” instead of looking to the Savior and delivering the Gospel message to a lost world.

[God] **“hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David”** (vs 69). The “horn” is a reference to descendants or offspring (see Psalm 132:17, 1 Samuel 2:1, 10).

76-78 “**And thou, child**” (John) is the forerunner of “**the Lord.**” Zacharias knew the Lord was in Mary’s womb.

If we apply this passage as a picture of a Christian witness for Jesus Christ, here’s what we learn:

1. “**Thou child,**” I’m a son of God. I’ve got a lot of growing to do.
2. “**Shalt be called the prophet of the Highest.**” A prophet was somebody who took God’s words and dispersed them for all to hear.
3. “**For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways.**” I’m not going my own way anymore (Isaiah 53:6, Proverbs 16:25). I’m on God’s pathway (John 14:6, Psalm 25:9).
4. “**To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.**” I’m telling others about my Savior and their need to get their sins remitted; to be saved from sin.
5. “**Through the tender mercy of our God...**” We’ve got to tell people about our merciful God. Though we deserve eternal punishment in hell, God, through His mercy, provided a way for sinners to escape that condemnation. People don’t like to be confronted with the fact that they’re sinners, but we’ve got to get that point across loud and clear. All have sinned (Rom 3:23) and God provided salvation for sinners, not for righteous people. There is none righteous, no, not one (Rom. 3:10).

VS 79 Jesus came “**to guide our feet into the way of peace.**” Christians are to endeavor “**to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**” (Eph 4:3). Jesus said, “**Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you**” (John 14:27). Jesus has given us a peace that this world cannot provide. We need to put away petty bickering and contempt for other church denominations. That doesn’t mean that we compromise our beliefs, but that we are able to maintain peace regardless of differences.

We have light that we need to give to “**them that sit in darkness.**” “**if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another**” (1 Jn 1:7). The light in the Bible will lead you to peace.

VS 80 John had a godly upbringing and then was trained by God in the desert.