

Preparing For the Promise

Luke 1:67-80

The reality is that God has kept His promise, as He always does. But before we can see the truth of this fact, our own eyes, hearts, minds, lives must be cleansed of the sin and rebellion that hardens us against Him. We might know the promise at some level, might even be waiting for it in some fashion, but we do not see it or long for it with a heart that thinks like God, that desires His glory above all else, that trusts His hand and awaits with joyful expectation the perfect fulfillment of all that He has promised. We must be prepared for the coming of the promise. This is what the child of Zacharias and Elizabeth will do for Israel. It is what his father here proclaims his purpose will be by prophetic utterance...

I. HE REMINDS US OF THE PROMISE

a. God has

i. Visited His People

Psalm 80

while the people looked upon this promised visit as freedom from the bondage of slavery, God had other intentions. He was going to deliver them from death itself and from the mastery of sin.

ii. Redeemed His People

Isaiah 43.1-15

iii. Raised up a horn of Salvation for them –

2Samuel 22.2-4 Psalm 132.13-18

b. This is the promised of God to David

i. Spoken by the prophets

2Samuel 7.12-16

- ii. He has always declared the truth that is to be, though it may take long past many lifetimes to see the fulfillment
- c. The promise has always been remembered and already fulfilled by God.

Romans 3:21-26

all too often when we don't see the actual fulfillment in terms and items we can check off, we think that God has failed or forgotten, but the truth is that He is always doing all that He promised and it only awaits the revelation of the already accomplished fulfillment. Zacharias uses language here that points us to this fact.

- i. Performed the Promised mercy
- ii. Remembered His covenant
- iii. Kept His oath

II. THE WORK OF PREPARING

- a. This child, John the Baptist by name

- b. Is the prophet of the most High
- c. He will go before the face of the Lord
- d. He will prepare the ways of the Lord -
prepare the people for the message
 - i. Give knowledge of salvation
 - 1) Remission of sins is what this salvation is about
 - 2) Hearts turning toward God in love and obedience is that which the preparation is accomplishing.
 - ii. Through the tender mercy of God -
Understand that this promised salvation is by the hand of God alone. He has done all that He has done for the fulfillment of His own oath and covenant, no other hand will save us, no other hand can have a part in our salvation.

1Timothy 2.3-7

iii. Brought by the coming Dayspring

- 1) Jesus would be His name
- 2) Though He has not yet come His coming is certain
- 3) He will bring light to those who sit in the darkness
- 4) He will deliver those who sit in the shadow of death
- 5) He will guide our feet into the way of peace

III. THE GLORIOUS PROMISES

- a. We would be delivered from our enemies
- b. So that we might serve Him without fear
- c. So that we might serve Him
 - i. In holiness
 - ii. In righteousness
 - iii. All the days of our lives

IV. PREPARING THE PREPARER

- a. This child
 - i. Grew
 - ii. Became strong in Spirit
 - iii. Was in the deserts until the day of his manifestation to Israel
- b. The worker must himself be trained and purified
- c. We also if we are to have an impact for the Kingdom should expect that God would purify and prune us