

7/21/13

**LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 6**

TITLE: THE BIRTH AND NAMING OF JOHN

TEXT: LUKE 1:57-66

INTRODUCTION: (1) YOU MAY BE WAITING PATIENTLY FOR GOD TO WORK IN AN AREA OF YOUR LIFE TODAY, OR SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE WHO IS VERY CLOSE TO YOU.

*** AND IF THE TRUTH WERE KNOWN, PERHAPS YOU ARE WAITING IMPATIENTLY FOR GOD TO WORK IN AN AREA OF YOUR LIFE OR SOMEONE ELSE'S.**

**** BUT YOU ARE WAITING.**

***** PERHAPS YOU ARE HOLDING ON TO, STANDING UPON A PROMISE OF GOD, A TRUTH OF HOPE YOU KNOW FROM THE WORD OF GOD THE BIBLE.**

****** AND POSSIBLY, CLINGING TO, BELIEVING A THAT PROMISE HAS KEPT YOU FROM FALLING INTO A DARK ABYSS OF DESPAIR.**

(2) WELL, LET ME ENCOURAGE YOU TO KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON THAT PROMISE TODAY, TO STAND UPON IT, TO NOT GIVE UP.

*** WHY? GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES IN HIS WORD.**

**** FOR BELOVED, IF GOD WOULD BREAK A PROMISE, THE UNIVERSE WOULD CEASE TO EXIST, OUR WORLD WOULD COLLAPSE AND LIFE WOULD CEASE.**

***** FOR GOD CANNOT LIE. AND GOT NOT ONLY WON'T LIE, HE CAN'T LIE, FOR HE IS HOLY! THUS HE IS INCAPABLE OF LYING IN WHOM HE IS AS GOD. HE IS THE PERFECTION OF TRUTH IN HIS CHARACTER AND THUS IN HIS ACTIONS AND WORD. AND HE DOES NOT CHANGE.**

- A.W. PINK SAID - "THE PERMANENCE OF GOD'S CHARACTER GUARANTEES THE FULFILLMENT

OF HIS PROMISES.”

****** IT IS TO SAY THAT THE FATHER IS TRUTH, JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND GOD’S WORD IS TRUTH.**

(3) PLEASE THINK ABOUT THESE SCRIPTURES AND LET THEM GRIP YOU: PSALM 31:5B SAYS: “YOU HAVE RANSOMED ME, O LORD, GOD OF TRUTH.”

*** ISAIAH 65:16A SAYS: “BECAUSE HE WHO IS BLESSED IN THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED BY THE GOD OF TRUTH; AND HE WHO SWEARS IN THE EARTH WILL SWEAR BY THE GOD OF TRUTH.”**

**** PSALM 86:15 SAYS: “BUT YOU, O LORD, ARE A GOD MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, SLOW TO ANGER AND ABUNDANT IN LOVINGKINDNESS AND TRUTH.”**

***** AND OF COURSE GOD’S WORD IS TRUTH IN**

JOHN 17:17, AND JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, JOHN 14:6.

****** BEYOND THOSE SCRIPTURES JOSHUA 21:45 SAYS: “NOT ONE OF THE GOOD PROMISES WHICH THE LORD HAD MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL FAILED; ALL CAME TO PASS.”**

(4) I KINGS 8:56 VERY SIMILARLY SAYS: “BLESSED BE THE LORD, WHO HAS GIVEN REST TO HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL, ACCORDING TO ALL THAT HE PROMISED; NOT ONE WORD HAS FAILED OF ALL HIS GOOD PROMISE, WHICH HE PROMISED THROUGH MOSES HIS SERVANT.”

*** HEBREWS 10:23 SAYS: “LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL.”**

**** NUMBERS 23:19 SAYS: “GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE, NOR A SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD REPENT; HAS HE SAID, AND WILL HE**

NOT DO IT? OR HAS HE SPOKEN, AND WILL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD?"

***** AND THEN TITUS 1:2 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).**

****** NOW CERTAINLY, IT'S ABUNDANTLY CLEAR FROM THE O.T. AND N.T., THAT GOD IS TRUTH, HE CANNOT BREAK A PROMISE LIKE MAN, HE CANNOT LIE.**

(5) AND CERTAINLY THAT TRUTH BRINGS HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TODAY, FOR BY ONE PERSON'S COUNT THERE ARE 3,573 PROMISES IN THE BIBLE. AND THAT IS A LOT OF TRUTH TO STAND UPON.

*** AND AS WE COME TO OUR TEXT FOR TODAY, SEVERAL OF GOD'S PROMISES ARE FULFILLED IN THE BIRTH AND NAMING OF JOHN.**

**** FOR EXAMPLE: THE PROMISE IN THE O.T. THAT A FORERUNNER WOULD COME BEFORE CHRIST WHOM WOULD COME IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH, THE PROMISE THAT**

ELIZABETH WOULD HAVE A SON WHEN IT WAS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A CHILD AS SHE HAD ALREADY GONE THROUGH MENOPAUSE, THE REALITY THAT THE CHILD WOULD BE NAMED JOHN, AND THAT ZACHARIAS THE FATHER OF JOHN WOULD SPEAK AGAIN AFTER BEING CHASTENED FOR HIS UNBELIEF. AT LEAST 4 PROMISES ARE FULFILLED.

***** AND ALL OF THEM HAVE TO DO WITH “THE BIRTH AND NAMING OF JOHN,” WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR MESSAGE TODAY.**

****** AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE’LL LOOK AT 3 MAIN POINTS. NO. 1 THE REJOICING OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN BY THE NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES OF ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH, AND OBVIOUSLY BY BOTH OF THEM, VV. 57&58.**

(6) NO. 2 THE RESPONSES OF THE NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES OF ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH IN NAMING JOHN, JOHN, NOT ZACHARIAS, AND THE RESPONSES OF ELIZABETH AND ZACHARIAS TO THEIR NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES IN NAMING JOHN, JOHN, VV. 59-64.

*** AND NO. 3, THE REVERENCE BY THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED AROUND ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDEA, VV. 65&66.**

**** SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE REJOICING, THE RESPONSES AND THE REVERENCE UNDER THE ARRIVAL OF JOHN AND NAMING HIM.**

***** AND WITH THOSE HOOKS TO HANG TRUTH UPON, LOOK AT V. 57 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE REJOICING.**

I. THE REJOICING, (READ V. 57)

A. NOW EARLIER IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE, WE LEARNED THAT THROUGH HIS ANGELIC SPOKESMAN GABRIEL, GOD MAKES THIS PROMISE TO ZACHARIAS IN LUKE 1:13B & 14: "YOUR WIFE ELIZABETH WILL BEAR

YOU A SON, AND YOU WILL GIVE HIM THE NAME JOHN, YOU WILL HAVE (WHAT?) JOY AND GLADNESS (YOU ARE GOING TO REJOICE) AND MANY WILL (WHAT?) REJOICE AT HIS BIRTH.”

*** NOW IN FULFILLMENT OF THAT PROMISE, THE TIME HAD COME FOR ELIZABETH TO GIVE BIRTH, AND AS PROMISED, SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.**

**** AND THAT SON WOULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH TO COME, THE HOPE OF GOD’S PEOPLE, THE BIRTH OF MESSIAH’S FORERUNNER WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH.**

***** SO GOD’S FULFILLS HIS PROMISE MADE TO ZACHARIAS AND HE WOULD REJOICE, AND ELIZABETH WOULD REJOICE.**

****** AND ONE THING YOU WILL SEE IN WHAT IS CALLED THE BIRTH NARRATIVE IN LUKE IS REJOICING. REJOICING THAT JOHN WOULD COME, REJOICING THAT JESUS WOULD COME.**

FOR IN LUKE 2:10, IN REGARDS TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD SAID TO THE SHEPHERDS, “DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY WHICH WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.”

1. AND JOY AND REJOICING FLOW THROUGH THE INFANCY NARRATIVE. WHY? FOR THE TIME HAD COME IN V. 57, AND IT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE APEX FOR REDEMPTIVE HISTORY AND REJOICING CONTINUES SPECIFICALLY ABOUT JOHN IN V. 58. LOOK AT V. 58 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 58. NOW THE BIRTH OF JOHN WOULD REMOVE THE STIGMA, THE DISGRACE OF BARRENNESS FOR ELIZABETH WHICH CAUSED HER TO REJOICE AND HERE IN V. 58, HER FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WERE REJOICING WITH HER.

* AND IT APPEARS THAT ELIZABETH MAY HAVE STAYED IN SECLUSION THROUGHOUT HER

PREGNANCY, WE KNOW AT LEAST FOR 5 MONTHS ACCORDING TO LUKE 1:24, FOR IT LOOKS LIKE THE NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES ARE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT ELIZABETH HAD A BABY.

**** FOR IT SAYS IN V. 58, “HER NEIGHBORS AND RELATIVES HEARD THAT THE LORD HAD DISPLAYED HIS GREAT MERCY TOWARD HER; AND THEY WERE REJOICING WITH HER, NOT THAT SHE WAS PREGNANT, THAT THEY HEARD THAT, BUT THAT SHE HAD A BABY. THAT ELIZABETH HAD GIVEN BIRTH. SHE HAS THE BABY IN V. 57.**

***** AND IT APPEARS THAT THEY DID NOT KNOW, THAT IT WAS A SECRET. BUT NOW THEY KNOW, AND THEY ARE REJOICING, FOR GOD HAD MERCY ON AN OLD BARREN GODLY WOMAN THAT FELT DISGRACE THAT SHE COULD NOT HAVE CHILDREN.**

****** AND CERTAINLY ELIZABETH AND ZACHARIAS AND THE REST OF THOSE PRESENT PRAISED GOD FOR HIS GREAT MERCY, GOD’S**

MERCY BEING HIS LOVING ACTION TOWARD UNDESERVING SUFFERERS, SUCH AS THIS OLD, CHILDLESS COUPLE, STIGMATIZED BY BARRENNESS.

1. AND GOD WOULD BE MERCIFUL THROUGH THE BIRTH OF JOHN TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS THAT WOULD BE THE ONE TO SAVE THEM FROM THEIR SINS, TO HAVE MERCY ON THEIR SOULS.

*** SO THERE IS MERCY ALL AROUND AND REJOICING ALL AROUND AS JOHN IS BORN.**

**** NOW THAT REJOICING LEADS TO SOME DIFFERENT RESPONSES BY THE NEIGHBORS, RELATIVES AND ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH AT THE CIRCUMCISION OF JOHN. LOOK AT V. 59 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE RESPONSES.**

II. THE RESPONSES, (READ V. 59)

A. NOW CIRCUMCISION WAS REQUIRED FOR

ALL JEWISH MEN ACCORDING TO GENESIS 17:9-14 AND LEVITICUS 12:3.

*** AND CLEARLY JOHN IS A JEW FOR HIS FATHER WAS A JEWISH PRIEST. SO JOHN WOULD BE CIRCUMCISED.**

**** NOW CIRCUMCISION WAS INSTITUTED BY GOD FOR PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL PURPOSES.**

***** NO. 1 CIRCUMCISION SERVED AS A SPIRITUAL OBJECT LESSON, GRAPHICALLY, EXPLICITLY, VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATING MAN'S NEED FOR CLEANSING FROM THE DEPRAVITY OF SIN, WHICH IS PASSED ON TO EACH SUCCEEDING GENERATION THROUGH PROCREATION.**

****** NO. 2 CIRCUMCISION WAS THE SIGN OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT IN GENESIS 17:10, AND THUS A MARK OF ISRAEL'S NATIONAL IDENTITY.**

1. AND NO. 3 THERE WAS SOME SANITARY HEALTH BENEFITS FROM IT, FOR IN THE ANCIENT WORLD WHEN THE DANGER OF BACTERIA WAS NOT KNOWN YET, AND STANDARDS OF HYGIENE WERE LARGELY UNKNOWN, INFECTION WAS MORE EASILY PASSED FROM A MAN TO A WOMAN.

*** SO ELIMINATING THE OUTER SKIN DECREASED THE POTENTIAL OF SUCH INFECTION, SO THAT HISTORICALLY, JEWISH WOMEN HAVE HAD LOW RATES OF CERVICAL CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES BECAUSE JEWISH HUSBANDS WERE CIRCUMCISED.**

**** THEREFORE CIRCUMCISION WAS ONE OF THE MANY DIETARY AND SANITARY REGULATIONS GOD GAVE TO PROTECT AND PERPETUATE AND CONTINUE THE EXISTENCE OF JEWISH PEOPLE.**

***** NOW WITH ALL OF THAT SAID, CIRCUMCISION SURGERY WAS NORMALLY PERFORMED BY THE FATHER OR AN APPOINTED PERSON.**

****** AND IT WAS MANDATED THAT THIS SURGERY WOULD BE PERFORMED ON THE EIGHTH DAY IN SCRIPTURE, LEVITICUS 12:3 AND GENESIS 17:12.**

2. AND BY THE FIRST CENTURY, IN JOHN'S DAY, THE PRACTICE OF NAMING THE CHILD ON THAT DAY BECAME A TRADITION NOT MANDATED BY THE LAW, BUT PRACTICED AS A COMMON PRACTICE.

*** WELL, THE PEOPLE WHO HAD GATHERED TO WITNESS THE CIRCUMCISION OF ELIZABETH'S CHILD DECIDED TO GET INVOLVED IN NAMING HIM.**

**** AND TO HONOR ZACHARIAS, A FAITHFUL PRIEST, THEY WERE GOING TO CALL HIM ZACHARIAS, ZACHARIAS JR. OR ZACHARIAS II**

OR LITTLE ZACH, WHATEVER.

***** AND NAMING FIRST BORN SONS AFTER THEIR FATHERS WAS NOT UNKNOWN, THOUGH NAMING THEM AFTER THEIR GRANDFATHERS WAS MORE COMMON IN THAT DAY.**

****** WELL, THE GOOD-INTENTIONED ATTEMPT TO NAME THE CHILD AFTER HIS FATHER PROVOKED AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM ELIZABETH. LOOK AT V. 60 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 60. NOW ELIZABETH PIPES UP IMMEDIATELY AND SAYS NO WAY! NO WAY JOSE!

*** ELIZABETH WAS FIRM, IN FACT RAYMOND BROWN TRANSLATES THIS, “NO YOU DON’T. HE IS TO BE CALLED JOHN.”**

**** AND THE WORDS NO INDEED IN THE NAU CAN BE TRANSLATED NOT SO, BY NO MEANS, NOT AT ALL, AND AS I SAID EARLIER, IN OUR**

CULTURE TODAY, NO WAY! SHE IS EMPHATIC.

***** ELIZABETH INSISTED ADAMANTLY THAT HER SON WAS TO BE CALLED JOHN, JUST AS THE ANGEL GABRIEL HAD COMMANDED ZACHARIAS IN LUKE 1:13.**

****** AND MOST LIKELY ALTHOUGH ZACHARIAS COULD NOT TALK AT THAT TIME, HE PROBABLY WROTE DOWN TO ELIZABETH AFTER HE LOST HIS SPEECH BY DOUBTING GOD, WHAT HAD HAPPENED, SO SHE SPOKE UP KNOWING THAT ZACHARIAS COULD NOT SAY ANYTHING.**

1. THEREFORE THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CHILD'S NAME; THIS WAS NOT GOING TO BE A GROUP DISCUSSION. GOD ORDAINED THAT THE CHILD'S NAME WOULD BE JOHN, AND THAT DECISION AND THAT THE CHILD'S NAME WOULD BE JOHN, THAT PROMISE WOULD BE FULFILLED.

*** HOWEVER, THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS DID NOT**

UNDERSTAND THAT, FOR LOOK AT THEIR RESPONSE IN V. 61 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 61. NOW TAKEN BACK BY ELIZABETH'S REJECTION OF THEIR SUGGESTION FOR HIS NAME AT THEIR CEREMONY OF CIRCUMCISION, THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS BRING UP THE FACT THAT NO ONE IN THEIR FAMILY HAS THE NAME OF JOHN.

*** AND BY GIVING HER SON A NAME NOT SHARED BY ANY FAMILY MEMBERS WENT AGAINST JEWISH CUSTOM OR TRADITION IN THAT TIME.**

**** AND PERHAPS FEELING THAT ELIZABETH HAD CROSSED THE LINE IN HER AUTHORITY IN THE HOME, THEY DECIDED TO GO OVER HER HEAD AND SEE WHAT ZACHARIAS WANTED. LOOK AT V. 62 PLEASE.**

D. READ V. 62. NOW ZACHARIAS WAS UNDER GOD'S CHASTENING FOR DOUBTING GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH GABRIEL IN LUKE 1:20.

*** FOR LUKE 1:20 SAYS: "AND BEHOLD, YOU SHALL BE SILENT AND UNABLE TO SPEAK UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THESE THINGS TAKE PLACE, BECAUSE YOU DID NOT BELIEVE MY WORDS, WHICH WILL BE FULFILLED IN THEIR PROPER TIME."**

**** AND THEN IN LUKE 1:22, IT SAYS WHEN ZACHARIAS CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE, HE WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK TO THEM.**

***** SO KNOWING THAT ZACHARIAS WAS MUTE, COULD NOT SPEAK, MANY TIMES PEOPLE WOULD CONNECT THAT TO BEING DEAF, FOR WHEN A PERSON IS TOTALLY DEAF, NOT PARTIALLY, THEY CANNOT SPEAK.**

****** AND THIS MAY BE THE REASON THEY MAKE SIGNS TO HIM, THINKING ZACHARIAS IS DEAF.**

AND SOME SCHOLARS BELIEVE THAT ZACHARIAS WAS DEAF AND DUMB OR MUTE INCLUDING MY FAVORITE BIBLE TEACHER.

1. BUT I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY BY WHAT HAS BEEN SAID UP TO THIS POINT AND WHAT FOLLOWS FOR IT SAYS HIS MOUTH WAS OPENED AND HIS TONGUE LOOSED, NOT THAT HE REGAINED HIS HEARING.

*** BUT REGARDLESS, THEY MAKE SIGNS TO ZACHARIAS IN WHAT HE WANTS HIS SON CALLED. AND HE RESPONDS IN V. 63. LOOK AT V. 63 PLEASE.**

E. READ V. 63. NOW IN RESPONSE TO THEIR QUESTION, ZACHARIAS ASKS FOR A TABLET TO WRITE ON BECAUSE HE CAN'T TALK. AND HE WRITES DOWN, "HIS NAME IS JOHN."

*** NOW NOTE THAT ELIZABETH SAID HER CHILD "SHALL BE CALLED JOHN."**

**** BUT ZACHARIAS RESPONDS EMPHATICALLY,
HIS NAME IS JOHN.**

***** AND IT WAS NOT A MATTER THAT ZACHARIAS
WAS NAMING THE CHILD, GOD ALREADY DID
THAT IN SPEAKING THROUGH GABRIEL IN LUKE
1:13 WHICH SAYS: BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO HIM,
“DO NOT BE AFRAID, ZACHARIAS, FOR YOUR
PETITION HAS BEEN HEARD, AND YOUR WIFE
ELIZABETH WILL BEAR YOU A SON, AND YOU
WILL GIVE HIM THE NAME JOHN.”**

****** AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS,
ZACHARIAS IS NOT HENPECKED, GIVING IN TO
HIS WIFE’S WISHES, ZACHARIAS IS NOT MAKING
A DECISION, HE IS BEING OBEDIENT, HE IS
SUBMITTING TO WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY
DETERMINED IN NAMING JOHN, HIS SPECIAL
SERVANT TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR HIS
BELOVED SON, THE SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.**

1. ZACHARIAS DID NOT COME UP WITH THE NAME OF JOHN, GOD DID. THEREFORE ZACHARIAS WAS PROVING HIS FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE. HE BELIEVED GOD, HE OBEYED GOD.

*** ZACHARIAS LEARNED THROUGH LOSING HIS SPEECH, HE LEARNED THROUGH THE HARD EXPERIENCE OF SUFFERING THAT HE COULD TRUST HIS GOD AND WHAT HE SAID, WHICH HIS PROMISES WERE TRUE UP TO THIS POINT.**

**** SO AS FAR AS ZACHARIAS WAS CONCERNED, JOHN HAD BEEN THE CHILD'S NAME SINCE GOD ANNOUNCED IT THROUGH GABRIEL. HIS OBEDIENCE THEN WAS FINAL AND LEFT THOSE PRESENT ASTONISHED, LIT. AMAZED, IN WONDER.**

***** AND PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN SAYS SOMETHING REALLY NEAT, SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL AT THIS POINT IN HIS COMMENTARY ON LUKE THAT PULLS TOGETHER WHAT LUKE IS DOING IN HIS GOSPEL AT THIS POINT:**

****** HE SAID AND I QUOTE SPEAKING OF THE NAME OF JOHN: “THIS WAS NOT A NAME THAT ZACHARIAS HAD CHOSEN, BUT A NAME THAT WAS GIVEN BY GOD TO EXPRESS THE CHILD’S TRUE IDENTITY. AS WE LISTEN TO THE NAMES IN THIS STORY, WE BEGIN TO SENSE THAT GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING BIG. ZACHARIAS MEANS THAT GOD REMEMBERS. ELIZABETH MEANS THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL. JOHN MEANS GOD IS MERCIFUL. THEN THERE IS THE SWEETEST NAME OF ALL: JESUS, WHICH MEANS “GOD SAVES.” LUKE IS TELLING THE STORY OF SALVATION, AND THESE PEOPLE ARE A PART OF THE STORY. THE FAITHFUL GOD WHO SHOWS MERCY TO SINNERS HAS REMEMBERED HIS PROMISE TO SAVE.” (END QUOTE)**

2. NOW IS THAT GREAT? GOD SAVES SINNERS. THE SAVIOR WOULD COME. BUT BEFORE HE COULD COME, GOD IS SHOWING MERCY AND SENDS JOHN. WHAT A GREAT GOD IS THE LORD ALMIGHTY!

*** AND MOVING ON, IF THE CHOICE BY GOD OF JOHN'S NAME SURPRISED THOSE PRESENT, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WOULD UTTERLY AMAZE THEM. LOOK AT V. 64 PLEASE.**

F. READ V. 64. NOW ANOTHER PROMISE OF GOD IS FULFILLED. FOR IN LUKE 1:20 GABRIEL SAID ON BEHALF OF GOD THAT JOHN WOULD NOT SPEAK UNTIL THESE THINGS TAKE PLACE, WHICH WOULD BE JOHN'S BIRTH AND OFFICIALLY NAMING HIM JOHN. AND JOHN IS OFFICIALLY NAMED AND WHAT HAPPENS, AT ONCE, IMMEDIATELY ZACHARIAS WAS ABLE TO SPEAK AGAIN.

*** OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSING AND WHAT WOULD YOU SAY, WHAT WOULD COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH FIRST OF ALL, NOT HAVING THE ABILITY TO SPEAK FOR OVER 9 MONTHS, UP TO A YEAR?**

**** WELL, I THINK IT WOULD BE PRAISE GOD. YOU WOULD START PRAISING THE LORD. AND WHAT WILL COME OUT OF ZACHARIAS' MOUTH IN PRAISE IS WHAT IS CALLED THE BENEDICTUS IN LATIN, THE BENEDICTION OF PRAISE, BLESSED BY THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL! A BLESSING OF PRAISE WILL COME OUT OF HIS MOUTH WHICH WE WILL LOOK AT LORD WILLING NEXT SUNDAY. IT IS RIGHT AND FULL OF PRAISE.**

***** AND ZACHARIAS' RESPONSE TO GETTING BACK HIS SPEECH IS PRAISE.**

****** SO IN SUMMARY, SO FAR IN OUR TEXT, WE HAVE LOOKED AT REJOICING, WE'VE LOOKED AT RESPONSES, BUT LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THE REVERENCE. LOOK AT V. 65 PLEASE.**

III. THE REVERENCE, (READ V. 65)

A. NOW AS A RESULT OF THE SHOCKING DISPLAY OF GOD'S POWER DEMONSTRATED IN ZACHARIAS' MIRACULOUS HEALING AND FAITH TO NAME HIS SON JOHN, FEAR CAME ON THOSE LIVING AROUND ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH.

*** AND THE WORD SPREAD LIKE FIRE THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY WAS BEING TALKED ABOUT IN ALL THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDEA, THE AREA THEY LIVED IN.**

**** FOR GOD WAS DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL. AND THAT FEAR WAS A HOLY REVERENCE THAT GOD WAS AT WORK. THE PROMISED SAVIOR'S COMING WAS ON THE HORIZON, FOR HIS FORERUNNER HAD BEEN BORN.**

***** AND PEOPLE WERE TALKING AND THINKING, THE CHILD JOHN WILL BE SPECIAL, FOR LOOK AT V. 66 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 66. NOW KEEP IN MIND THE SPIRITUAL VOLTAGE HERE THAT IS AT WORK.

ALL WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE CIRCUMCISION OF JOHN, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SPOKE TO OTHERS ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

*** AND IT WAS AN ELECTRIC ATMOSPHERE, WHAT WILL THIS CHILD TURN OUT TO BE? THE SPECULATION WAS RAMPANT, IT WAS GROWING, IT WAS WIDESPREAD ABOUT JOHN'S FUTURE.**

**** AND UPPERMOST IN PEOPLE'S MINDS WAS THE THOUGHT THAT IF JOHN WAS TO BE THE CHRIST'S FORERUNNER, THEN THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH HIMSELF WAS CLOSE, EVEN IMMINENT.**

***** FOR WHAT WAS WITHOUT QUESTION TO EVERYONE WAS THAT THE HAND OF THE LORD WAS CERTAINLY WITH JOHN FROM THE OUTSET.**

****** AND THE WORDS "THE HAND OF THE LORD" WAS A PHRASE SYMBOLIZING GOD'S POWERFUL PRESENCE. GOD'S HAND WAS**

UPON JOHN FROM HIS CONCEPTION TO HIS BIRTH IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE.

IN WRAP UP AND APPLICATION: (1) THE PROPER CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN FROM OUR TEXT TODAY IS THAT GOD ACTS MERCIFULLY, GRACIOUSLY AND SAVINGLY IN HUMAN HISTORY. GOD IS A SAVING GOD. HE HAS A PLAN TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS. AND LUKE IS UNFOLDING THAT PLAN BEFORE US AS WE WORK THROUGH HIS GOSPEL.

*** GOD SAVES SINNERS. HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED, RESCUED FROM YOUR SINS BY HIM THROUGH HIS GRACE BY FAITH ALONE IN THE ONLY SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST? IF NOT, TURN TO JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR RIGHT NOW. HE WILL DELIVER AND FORGIVE YOU OF ALL YOUR SINS. HE IS A SAVING GOD.**

**** NO. 2 IN APPLICATION, FOR CHRISTIANS, UNDERSTAND THAT ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH, IN NAMING THEIR SON JOHN WENT AGAINST FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO DO THE WILL**

OF GOD.

***** AND MY POINT IS WE WANT TO LOVE OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS AND BE GRACIOUS BUT SOMETIMES THEY WON'T AGREE OR UNDERSTAND OUR DECISION IN OBEYING THE LORD, IN BEING OBEDIENT TO HIM.**

****** LOVE YOUR FAMILY, LOVE YOUR FRIENDS. BUT LOVE GOD FIRST! OBEY HIM, PLEASE HIM FIRST.**

(2) NO. 3 GOD IS A PROMISE KEEPING GOD. WHAT PROMISE CHRISTIAN DO YOU NEED TO STAND UPON TODAY IN A TIME OF TRIAL? WHAT PROMISE DO YOU NEED TO TAKE AND HAVE FAITH IN IN YOUR TIME OF SUFFERING?

*** WHAT PROMISE DO YOU NEED TO BELIEVE TO GIVE YOU HOPE TODAY? REMEMBER GOD WILL NEVER EVER BREAK A PROMISE TO HIS CHILDREN. MAY WE STAND UPON THOSE**

**PRECIOUS AND BLESSED PROMISES FROM
GOD'S WORD.**

**** I CLOSE WITH A QUOTE ABOUT THE
PROMISES OF GOD BY R.C. SPROUL.**

*****R.C. SPROUL SAID AND I QUOTE – “HOPE IS
CALLED THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL (HEBREWS
6:19), BECAUSE IT GIVES STABILITY TO THE
CHRISTIAN LIFE. BUT HOPE IS NOT SIMPLY A
'WISH' (I WISH THAT SUCH AND SUCH WOULD
TAKE PLACE); RATHER, IT IS THAT WHICH
LATCHES ON TO THE CERTAINTY OF THE
PROMISES OF THE FUTURE THAT GOD HAS
MADE.”**

(LET'S PRAY)