

**Theme:** Zechariah believes, understands and proclaims God’s promise & purpose of salvation. Seeing His promise and purpose will always strengthen our faith.

**Background/Introduction:** The stories of the birth of John and Jesus are beautifully woven together in these opening chapters.

## **I. Zechariah is Blessed**

### A. With a son

- Contrast John’s birth with that of Jesus.
- 8<sup>th</sup> day – circumcision, naming the child – “John?”
- Zechariah believes and obeys. “His name is John!”

### B. With a voice

1. Not till he *names* the child
2. Mouth *immediately opened*.
  - Zechariah breaks forth in blessing
  - *Fear* comes upon the people (66)
  - Even at his birth – hearts are stirred to look to the Lord.
3. The names in Luke 1
  - Zechariah - the Lord remembers (His covenant)
  - Elizabeth - God is faithful (the faithful one)
  - John - the Lord is merciful
  - Jesus - the Lord saves

### C. With humility and faith

- He believed God and his messenger
- He obeyed

## **II. Zechariah Blesses God – A Benediction**

### A. For what he *has* done

- Has visited His people to bring salvation
- Has done marvelous things to deliver His people from slavery
- He has redeemed His people

### B. For what is promised

1. Saved from our enemies! (71-73a)
  - a. From physical enemies?
    - Horn of salvation? (Psalm 148:14; Jer.48:25; Micah 4:13)
    - From house of David (2 Samuel 7:12,13; Psalm 132:17; Jeremiah 33:17; Isaiah 9:7; Zechariah 12:10)
    - From those who hate us?
  - b. From our true enemy.
    - Ourselves!
    - Satan!

2. Saved from sin (77-79)

### C. For God's purpose in salvation

1. To serve *Him* - without fear!
  - made to serve Him
  - in holiness and righteousness - all our days!
2. We will serve someone!
  - They served the Romans, in *fear*
  - We serve those over us
  - Serving ourselves?
3. "To Glorify God and enjoy him forever!"
  - Rendering service to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23)

NOTE: No wonder we look strange to the world around us!!

### III. Zechariah Blesses his Son

- A. Preparing the way (76,77)
  - Bring the people to a conviction of sin
  - Make them long for redemption
  - Help them see their need
- B. Guiding us to the way of peace
  - Where will salvation come from? **The mercy of God!** (78)
  - Christ comes to "shine light" on those in darkness. (79)
  - To bring us Peace. (79)

### IV. Blessed Like Zechariah?

1. Acknowledge how abundantly you have been blessed!!
2. Proclaim the truth! Joy of sharing the truth!  
"His Name is *Jesus!*"
3. Are you still living in darkness? Come to the light of his mercy.
4. What blessing will you pronounce upon your children?