

Series: Songs of the Season; *Sermon:* **Zechariah's Song**

Delivered by: **Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* December 8, 2019

***Bible text explored:* Luke 1:67-79**

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.” [ESV]

Review and application:

To absorb the full impact of Zechariah's prophetic song, read the dramatic events that led up to it: Luke 1:5-25 and 57-66.

1. Zechariah first summarized God's promise of freedom. How (v. 68) had God already visited and redeemed his people? (See *Exod. 3:7-10* and *17-20*.)
2. How (v. 69) had God exercised his strength and power through the line of David? (See *2 Sam. 7:11-13*; *Psa. 89:20, 24*.)
3. What form (vv. 71 and 74-75) was this freedom to take? (Here, the word *serve* includes worship.)
4. How does our culture define freedom?
But how does the way God designed us shape the biblical view of freedom?
5. How (v. 76) would God use Zechariah's infant son to prepare the way for the coming Lord?
How (v. 77) would the Lord he baptized be their salvation?
6. In the Old Testament, how (vv. 78-79) was the sunrise concept linked to the Messiah? (See *Isa, 9:2*; *42:6-7*; *49:6*.)
7. Track how identical words are used in this song for both the expectation and its fulfillment:
Visit: v. 68 / v. 78
Salvation: v. 69 / v. 77
Mercy: v. 72 / v. 78