

I. Setting the stage: Gabriel's promises fulfilled

- A. Elizabeth will bear a son (verses 13, 57)
- B. You will call him John (verses 13, 59-63)
- C. The naming of John marks the accomplishment of what Gabriel fulfilled, and the end of Zacharias' punishment
- D. Many will rejoice at his birth (verses 14, 25, 58, 64-65, 68-79)
- E. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb (verses 15, 41)

II. John, Elizabeth, and now Zacharias all speak of Jesus before He is born!

III. God's word through Zacharias: God is now fulfilling His promises!

- A. God has promised to His people: in the past and now through John. (verses 70, 72, 73)
- B. John continues this covenant ministry as messenger from God to His people, preparing them for the great fulfillment. (verse 77)
- C. In his preaching and baptizing, he will cause God's people to understand God's salvation

IV. What is God's salvation?

- A. Freedom from enemies (verse 71)
 - i. slavery (verses 68, 78-79; see Isaiah 9:2)
 - ii. the term "salvation" can accurately be rendered "rescue"
 - iii. what enemies? physical, flesh-and-blood; personal sin and enslavement; spiritual
- B. For what purpose? So that we are free to serve God in righteousness and holiness all our days (verses 74-75); to guide our feet into the way of peace (verse 79)

V. How will God bring about this salvation? By sending the Savior.

- A. God's visit (verse 68, 78)
- B. God's accomplishment of redemption (verse 68)
- C. A horn of salvation for us in the house of David, God's servant (verse 69)
- D. With tender mercy for His people (verse 78)
- E. The Dawn from on high will visit us (verse 78)
- F. No other savior will do.