**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 19 January 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Zacharias’ Prophecy of John’s Ministry (1:67–80)**

 67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

 68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,

 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,

 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began,

 71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us,

 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant,

 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,

 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

 80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

**Luke 1:67**

 67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Zacharias utters an eloquent hymn of praise, rich in quotations from the ﻿﻿﻿OT.

**Luke 1:68-69**

 68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,

 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David,

1. **Verse 68: Benedictus—A Blessing**

 *The Benedictus is the sung by John the Baptist’s father, Zechariah, in Luke 1 on the occasion of John’s naming and circumcision. Zechariah is particularly joyful to be singing anything at this point.*

 *He was struck dumb by the angel Gabriel for doubting that he and his aged wife Elizabeth were soon going to become parents, and these are the first words he speaks after regaining the ability.*

[**Benedictus (bibleodyssey.org)**](https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/people/related-articles/benedictus)

1. Glorifies God for What God has done and is about to do
2. God through His Son Jesus Christ came to redeem His people

**John 1:11-12 (NIV)**

 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

1. **Verse 69:**

A) The Holy Spirit moved Zacharias to say “Jehovah had raised up a horn of salvation in the royal house of His servant David”

1. A *“horn of Salvation”* is a common expression in the OT that symbolizes the strength of the Messiah

**Psalms 18:2**

 “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

**Luke 1:70-76**

 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began,

 71 That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,

 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant,

 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

 74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

1. Zacharias gave praise to God for His faithful promises he spoke through the OT prophets.
2. The Lord made an unconditional covenant of salvation with Abraham—**Genesis 12:1-3**

 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

1. This promise was fulfilled by the coming of Abraham’s seed—Jesus Christ
2. All believers are recipients of the same promise

**Galatians 3:8-9**

 8 What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.”

 9 So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

1. The salvation Jesus brought was both **external and internal**.

A) *Externally*, meant deliverance from the hand of their enemies.

1. *Internally*, meant serving Him without fear, in holiness and

righteousness.

**Luke 1:76-77**

 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins

1. Zacharias speaks about John’s mission:
2. John would proclaim salvation to the people through the forgiveness

of their sins.

**Mark 1:4-5**

 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

1. John would be the prophet of the Most-High, preparing the hearts

of the people for the coming of the Lamb of God.

**Mark 1:6-8**

 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

 7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

 8 "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

1. Malachi predicted that a messenger would prepare the way before Jehovah—Malachi 3:1

 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.”

**Luke 1:78-79**

 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

1. Zacharias likened Christ’s coming as sunrise. Why?
2. The world had lain in darkness for centuries.
3. Now through the tender mercy of our God, dawn was about to break.
4. It would come in the Person of Christ, shining on the Gentiles. **Malachi 4:2**

 “But to you who fear My name The sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.”

**John 1:4-12**

 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

 80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

1. Zacharias closes his prophetic utterance with a simple statement:
2. The child grew physically and spiritually, remaining in the deserts till the day of his public appearance to the nation of Israel.
3. John was referred to as one having the spirit and power of Elijah

 John the Baptist, like Elijah, was known for his bold uncompromising stand for the truth—God’s Word. Even in the face of ruthless rulers, John, like Elijah, stood toe-to-toe and declared the Truth.

 In fact, the final two verses of the OT Book of Malachi promised that God would raise up one with the spirit of Elijah—**Read Malachi 4:5-6**

 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

 God kept His promised—he sent John the Baptist.

Willbutler109@gmail.com

**Home Assignment**

**For Next week:**

* **Read about the Birth of Jesus Christ: Luke 2:1-14**
* **Answer the following questions:**
1. What did Jesus claim about Himself in John 6:35? How does this relate to the meaning of Bethlehem?
2. What reminder does the meaning of “Ephrathah” provide in light of Jesus’ teaching in John 15:1-8?
3. What is required to bear the fruit of Christ, according to John 15:5?
4. What is a result of abiding in Christ (being obedient to His Word), according to John 15:7?
5. List what is said about the Messiah, Jesus, in Micah 5:2. How should we respond in light of this?
6. How is Jesus’ eternal existence as God clearly taught in Micah 5:2?
7. Micah 5:2 is one of the many promises God fulfilled in regard to Jesus’ first Advent. What is the nature of God’s promises according to the following passages:
8. Psalms 12:6
9. 2 Peter 1:3-4
10. 2 Peter 3:8-10