

The Benedictus: Zechariah's Song

Luke 1:46-55- The Magnificat (Mary's Song)

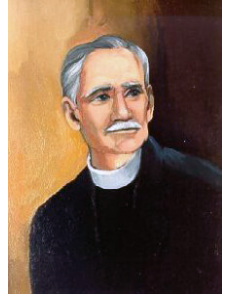
Luke 1:67-80- The Benedictus (Zechariah's Song)

Luke 2:14- The Gloria In Excelsis (The Angels' Song)

Luke 2:27-34- The Dimittis (Simeon's Song)

These four songs in Luke's nativity story are the last of the Hebrew Psalms and the first of the Christmas hymns.

– W. Graham Scroggie



Luke 1:67-80

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our

enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you child shall be called

prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

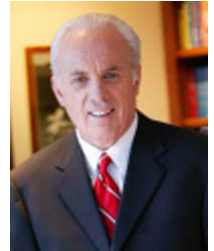
Luke 1:18-20

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to

bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

Now if you're 70 or 80 and you've spent your whole life trying to explain away why you don't have a child, and now you're going to have a child and you can't tell somebody, that's a constant pain and a constant reminder that it's better to believe and obey.

– John MacArthur



Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

for he has **visited** and redeemed his
people

the sunrise shall **visit** us from on high to
give light to those who sit in darkness

Salvation is not a human invention,
but a divine visitation. It is not
something we achieve by going to
God, but something God has done
by coming to us in Christ. No one
is ever saved except by the grace
of God.

– Philip Graham Ryken



and has **raised up a horn** of
salvation for us

Psalm 33:17

A firstborn bull—he has majesty,
and his **horns** are the **horns** of a
wild ox; with them he shall gore the
peoples, all of them, to the ends of
the earth

Psalm 89:15-17

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted. For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our **horn** is exalted.

has raised up a horn of salvation for
us in the **house of his servant**
David, as he spoke by the mouth
of his holy prophets from of old

Micah 5:2

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the
clans of **Judah**, from you shall
come forth for me one who is to be
ruler in Israel, whose coming forth
is from of old, from ancient days.

that we should be **saved from our enemies** and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the **oath that he swore to our father Abraham**

Exodus 3:7

Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings

Who are the enemies referred to in the hymn?
Some would say Rome, but this is only a partial answer. Zechariah's hymn is an introduction to Luke's entire book. To ask what the hymn means for Luke, we need only to see how he develops the theme of enemies within his Gospel. Such an examination shows that the enemy consists of supernatural opposition.

– Darrell Bock



Luke 11:19-22

And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul,
by whom do your sons cast them out?
When a strong man, fully armed, guards
his own palace, his goods are safe; **but**
when one stronger than he attacks
him and overcomes him, he takes
away his armor in which he trusted and
divides his spoil.

to grant us that we, being delivered
from the hand of our **enemies**,
might **serve him without fear, in**
holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

And **you child** shall be called prophet
of the Most High; for **you will go**
before the Lord to prepare his
ways, to give knowledge of salvation
to his people in the forgiveness of
their sins,

John 3:28-30

'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **He must increase, but I must decrease."**

to give knowledge of salvation to
his people in the forgiveness of
their sins, because of the **tender
mercy of our God**

The truth is that the God of the Bible is the kind of God whose greatest delight comes not from making demands but from meeting needs.

– Sam Storms

