

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 1:57-80

**SINGING:** 281:1-4 – 435:9 – 259:1, 2, 4, 6 – 381:1-4 – 448:1-2

### Opening Thoughts

- Luke 1 & 2 contain the finest Christmas Psalms!
- Zacharias' benediction extols God to the highest!
  1. His benediction caps a long journey of pain and disappointment
  2. His benediction is far more than personal praise
- His Benediction ministered to people Zacharias has taught for years

### **THE SONG OF GOD'S GRACE (1)**

I. The Provision of Grace II. The Work of Grace III. The Fruit of Grace

#### **I. ZACHARIAS' SONG CELEBRATES THE RICH PROVISIONS OF GRACE**

A. He extols the LORD God of Israel for His saving purpose (68)!

1. Meaning of 'visit'
2. Meaning of 'redeemed'

B. He extols God's provision to accomplish this saving purpose (69, 71)

1. Raised up 'a horn of **salvation** for us'
  - a. message in this 'horn' points to power

C. He extols God's provision as the fulfillment of His covenant promises

1. First he re-calls His *promises to David* (2 Sam. 7:12-13)
2. Secondly he reaches back to Abraham's covenant (72-73)
3. Thirdly, Zacharias refers to 'new covenant' in Jer. 31:31ff (74-77)
4. Noteworthy: he didn't refer to the covenants with Noah and Moses

D. He extols God with a final burst of praise (78-79)

1. What moved God to visit this dark planet with the Light of hope?
2. What is God's purpose in this dawn of hope in His coming?

## Closing observations and applications

- A. No event is more moving and changing than the coming of the Messiah
1. He met people who are sitting in darkness and shadow of death
  2. Zacharias and Elisabeth travelled this journey of hopelessness
  3. Is the picture of their marriage experience is the picture of your soul?
- B. Come and hear once more Zacharias doxology in Jesus' own words
1. Whether you know Him personally or not, hear His Words  
*The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor, the hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.* Luke 4:18
    - a. We are captive of Satan ... *such He came to save!*
    - b. We are poor ... *to such He preached His Gospel!*
    - c. We are brokenhearted ... *such He promised to heal!*
    - d. We are captive ... *such He came to deliver!*
    - e. We are blind ... *such He came to recover!*
    - f. We are bruised (broken) ... *such He to set free!*

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O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

O Come, O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's stem, unto Thine own,  
and rescue them!  
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave

O come, Thou bright and morning Star and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.