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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**The Late Bishop E. Samuel Green, Establishmentarian**

**“THE DAYSPRING FROM ON HIGH HATH VISITED US,”**

**Luke 1:57-80**

***Luke 1:57-58***

***57 "Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son."***

***58 "And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her."***

The birth of John was recognized by Elizabeth’s family and friends as a display of unusual mercy to her from the Lord. When Elizabeth gave birth to John, her neighbors and relatives celebrated the Lord’s mercy with her. We see, here, a woman far beyond her childbearing years who has brought forth a son. Perhaps none believed when she had told them. Now they rejoiced with her. These very same people, so close to her, knew how Zacharias had a vision in the temple and was left unable to speak. All sorts of things were probably going through their minds.

***Luke 1:59-60***

***59 "And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father."***

***60 "And his mother answered and said, Not [so]; but he shall be called John."***

In accord with the custom of naming a child on the day of his circumcision (Leviticus 12:1-3) and following the angel’s instructions (Luke 1:13) Elizabeth named her son John instead of Zacharias after his father (as the relatives wanted to do). On the eighth day the circumcision was done to seal the Abrahamic covenant with God. As done many times at baptism, the name of the child is given, as well. Even today many parents name their first son after its father. This was about to occur here until Elisabeth and Zacharias stop them. Somehow the father had gotten word to Elisabeth what his name was to be even though he had lost his voice. Elisabeth speaks up and says his name is John. Now there is a stir. Why is this baby named John? Everyone assumed that the child would be named after his father, but Elizabeth insisted that he would be called John.

***Luke 1:61-63***

***61 "And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name."***

***62 "And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called."***

***63 "And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marveled all."***

Still pressing their case, the relatives inquired from Zacharias (that they made signs to him would suggest he was not only mute but deaf as well), and to their surprise he confirmed in writing that the child was to be called John. When they asked Zechariah, who was still unable to speak, he confirmed it in writing: His name is John. Here is a name none of their relatives have used. What is going on here? They are really questioning now. The father agrees his name is John. He can't speak so he writes this name, His doubt is gone. "John" means the grace of Jehovah.

***Luke 1:64 "And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue [loosed], and he spake, and praised God."***

Zacharias had turned from skeptic to believer, and thus he instantly regained his powers of speech and began to speak in praise of God. The instant he put his doubt behind him, Zacharias' tongue was loosed and he spoke. At that moment, his ability to speak was restored, and he began praising God. What wonderful things he had to tell them about what happened in the temple and about this miracle birth.

***Luke 1:65 "And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea."***

Now these neighbors and cousins know that there has been something super- natural about this birth. Word spread fast that something miraculous has happened here. The first reaction of the people was fear because the whole event was awe-inspiring. Then the news of the event spread to the whole region (the hill country of Judea) because the event was remarkable.

***Luke 1:66 "And all they that heard [them] laid [them] up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him."***

Finally, the people wondered about this child because it was clear that the hand of the Lord was certainly with him, he was extraordinary, the Lord is with John. The people even from the first know that John is anointed of God from birth to do some great job. Everyone began to wonder, What then will this child become?

***Luke 1:67 "And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,"***

Zechariah was then filled with the Holy Spirit and answered the question that everyone was asking. The minute Zacharias recognizes publicly the miracle of God, that God fills him with the Holy Ghost. The easiest way to receive the Holy Ghost is to totally submit your will to God.

***Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”***

When he did this, he began to prophesy. Verses 68 through 79 is what he prophesies. We are informed by Luke that John the Baptist was to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15); his mother, Elisabeth, was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41); we now see his father filled with the Holy Spirit. John and his parents were filled with the Holy Spirit for the task of pronouncing this message from God. Also, from Luke’s pen in Acts, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak (2:4); Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them (4:8); they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God (4:31). Likewise, the biblical evidence that you are filled with the Holy Spirit is that you will speak as the Spirit gives utterance!

***Luke 1:68 "Blessed [be] the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,"***

Zacharias immediately turned to praising God. This song of prophetic praise, drawn mostly from quotations and allusions of the Old Testament is called the Benedictus, which is the first word of the Latin rendering of Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel: Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel. We see, here, that his very first statement blesses God and prophesies redemption of his people. Every word of this prophecy will come about because these words coming from Zacharias' mouth are not his words, but the word of the Lord through him." In one long sentence (1:68-75) Zacharias praised God for His work of fulfilling His covenant promises to David and to Abraham. This work of “covenant fulfillment” was to be accomplished by the One whom John would one day announce and introduce to the world this child (you, child). In the rest of the song Zacharias highlighted the ministry of the coming One in terms of salvation, forgiveness, mercy, guidance, and peace.

***Luke 1:69 "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;"***

We remember here that "horn" signifies strength. We realize that our strength is in our salvation. In the direct lineage of David. The Lord Jesus will be born.

***Luke 1:70-72***

***70 "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:"***

***71 "That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;"***

***72 "To perform the mercy [promised] to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;"***

Zacharias worshiped God for the redemption and salvation he was providing for his people through the Messiah, just as he had promised long ago. In Genesis we see the first prophecy of this Saviour.

***Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."***

One of the sweetest promises in the Bible for the believer is that God will cause even our enemies to live at peace with us. God remembers His covenant that He has made with man and Jesus Christ the God of all mercy will save us even from our own selves.

***Luke 1:73-75***

***73 "The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,"***

***74 "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,"***

***75 "In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."***

We know from an earlier teaching here that all who believe in Jesus Christ are children of Abraham and heirs to the same promises God made to him. This prophecy is stating that we will be free from the bondage of this earth. We will be free from the guilt of sin and can go on in newness of life with Him. We can be holy and righteous because we have taken on His righteousness and holiness. We will no longer be servant to sin but have the righteousness of Christ to walk in all the days of our life.

***Luke 1:76-78***

***76 "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;"***

***77 "To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,"***

***78 "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,"***

As for Zechariah’s son John, he would be a prophet of the Most High who would go before the Lord to prepare his ways as the Old Testament prophets foretold (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3 1). He would introduce Israel to her Messiah (John 1:29-36). [Zacharias](https://www.gotquestions.org/Zechariah-in-the-Bible.html) says that “the dayspring from on high hath visited us.” In this instance, the dayspring is a metaphor for the promised Messiah, Jesus, who would soon arrive. The NIV translates the word for “dayspring” as “the rising sun”; the New American Standard Version (NASB) translates it as “the Sunrise from on high.” The word Sunrise is capitalized in the NASB because it refers to the Son of God who would rise like the sun to bring light to all men (see [Malachi 4:2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mal%204.2) and [John 1:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.4), [9–10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.9%E2%80%9310)). The word dayspring is still used today as a generic term for “a new era,” Dayspring is also the name of a popular Christian greeting card company: Here Zacharias is saying prophetically that John will proclaim the coming of Christ. John will go ahead and prepare the way. His message will be their need for repentance of their sins and an awakening that comes from God on mankind that will receive it. God had mercy on mankind and sent His Son to bring us out of darkness into His marvelous Light.

***Luke 1:79 "To give light to them that sit in darkness and [in] the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."***

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. Those who sit in darkness here are probably speaking of the Gentiles and even most of physical Israel, as well. No hope of eternal life could they see, they did not know of God. They were in spiritual darkness until the Light of Jesus Christ shines in their heart and brings His glorious Light to them. Jesus is King of Peace. His is the only true peace.

***Luke 1:80 "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel."***

The astonishing beginning of John’s life was followed by many years of normal growth and development. John the Baptist (child) grew physically and spiritually spending much time in the wilderness and being prepared for his future public ministry. You can tell from the statement about him being in the desert that he was not of this world. He was in the world for a purpose, but not of this world. His thoughts were not of this world. He was a separated man (separated by God to carry out a mission). Nothing else mattered to John. Everything was focused on his mission.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who rejoiced with Elisabeth at the birth of her son?
2. Who did they believe shewed mercy on her?
3. How old was the baby when they came to circumcise him?
4. When was the baby's name given?
5. Who stopped them from naming the baby Zacharias?
6. What did the mother name him?
7. How did Zacharias get word to them that he agreed with the baby being named John?
8. What does John mean?
9. When did Zacharias receive his voice back?
10. What did he do immediately when he could speak?
11. What happened to Zacharias that caused him to prophesy?
12. What is the easiest way to receive the Holy Ghost?
13. What is the "horn" symbolic of?
14. Our strength is in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. Whose lineage will Jesus be in?
16. Where is the first promise of a Saviour in the Bible?
17. What is one of the sweetest promises in the Bible?
18. How can we be holy and righteous?
19. What is meant by the "dayspring" visiting us?
20. Who is the child in verse 80?