

December 13, 2015

Christmas Revelations - Zechariah

Luke 1:67-79
By Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 5 Num. 50

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Our third proclamation of Christmas revelation comes from Zechariah. Zechariah is the father of John the Baptist, who comes to prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist is a prophet who brings the greatest message of all time: behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Zechariah is a priest and faithfully serves the Lord. In his old age, his wife, who has never been able to have kids, becomes pregnant. The angel Gabriel proclaims that the child will be named John and will be the forerunner of the Lord. Zechariah is unable to speak from the time that he hears Gabriel until the child is born. Then, after the birth, Zechariah filled with the Holy Spirit prophesied concerning the child and what he represents.

**AND THE
LIGHT SHINES
IN THE
DARKNESS,
AND THE
DARKNESS
DID NOT
OVERCOME IT.**

JOHN 1:5

EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

Read Luke 1:67-79 (NET)

⁶⁷ Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, because he has come to help and has redeemed his people.

⁶⁹ For he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from long ago,

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

⁷² He has done this to show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant—

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham.

This oath grants ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, may serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him for as long as we live.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High. For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ Because of our God’s tender mercy the dawn will break upon us from on high

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

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. What is in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

8. Verse 71 says that we should be saved from our enemies and all who hate us. Who are our enemies?

9. In verse 74, it says that we may serve Him without fear. What fear has been eliminated?

10. Verse 76 says that he will go before the Lord to prepare the way. How does John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord?

11. According to verse 77, what is it that gives us the knowledge of salvation?

12. In verse 79, what do you think the light and darkness represent?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. This passage tells us that we can serve without fear. What fears can sometimes keep us from serving the Lord as we should?

14. Verse 78 talks about God's tender mercy. Where in your life do you have an opportunity to show others mercy?

15. How can we be the light that is shining into the darkness?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES