Luke 1:57-80

“A Horn & a Dayspring!”

1. Intro:
   1.1. Importance of our prayer meetings at end of month.

2. WRITING & WORSHIPING! (57-66)

2.1. WRITING! (57-63)
2.2. They made signs (62) – to nod, to signal by nodding.
   2.2.1. Zacharias was obviously not only voiceless but couldn’t hear either.

2.3. Writing tablet (63) – a small wooden tablet covered w/a film of wax.¹

2.4. The naming of a child! (59-61)
   2.4.1. On the 8th day the boy was circumcised and received his name. Girls could be named any time within 30 days of their birth.²
   2.4.2. Often times friends & local musicians would be gathered near the house. When the birth was announced, the musicians broke into music & song!
   2.4.3. In biblical tradition, the task of naming the child generally fell to the mother.³ [Gen.29-30 Rachel & Leah name their 12 boys; Hannah/Samuel]
      2.4.3.1. It could be performed by the father, & in exceptional cases by nonparental figures.
   2.4.4. To know a persons name was to know their essence or character.

2.5. Names were descriptive.
   2.5.1. They sometimes described a circumstance attending the birth - Esau & Jacob (Gen 25:25–26 red/heal catcher).
   2.5.2. They sometimes described the child - Laban (means white or blonde)
   2.5.3. Sometimes the child received the parental name.
   2.5.4. The name can described the parents’ joy - Saul and Samuel both mean asked for.
   2.5.5. Sometimes the name was a declaration of the parent’s faith. Elijah for instance, means Jehovah is my God.
   2.5.6. Personal names might express hopes for the child’s future. Changing of names revealed a transformation in character or destiny.

¹ LKGN T pg.141
² William Barclay; Lk.1:57-66
³ Shepherds Notes; pg.8
2.6. **John?** – shorter form of the name *Jehohanan*, which means *Jehovah’s gift or God is gracious*.

2.6.1. I bet all the musicians slid off their instruments at this!

2.6.1.1. Or maybe they all shifted from a major to a minor cord.

2.6.1.2. I hear the violins screech, & the harps all breaking strings!

2.6.2. But it was the name which God had ordered to be given to the child and it described the parent’s gratitude for an unexpected joy.

2.7. **WORSHIPING!** (64-66)

2.8. Wow! **9 months of silence** to consider, muse, ponder, pray, & meditate on God & on Scripture.

2.8.1. And as we do God seems to always turn our marks of sin into memorials of grace! – “And where sins abounded grace did much more abound!”

2.8.2. **Q:** What would it mean for you & your life to be silent for 9 months?

2.8.2.1. No more sharing/teaching/or preaching, no counseling, no singing… but lots more **seeing**! [It heightens all other senses!]

2.8.2.2. A lot more looking into your spouse & children’s eyes.

2.8.2.3. A lot more reading of great books.

2.8.2.4. A lot more writing/journaling/poems/letters thoughts about life.

2.8.2.5. A lot more prayer & meditation on the Word.

2.8.2.6. All in absolute silence. I pray I would use that time as wisely as it seemed Zacharias did!

2.8.2.6.1. He came out **filled** w/the H.S. & **singing** what has come to be known as the *Benedictus*.

2.9. **They wondered,** “**what special destiny awaited this child?**”

2.9.1. There’s a parental challenge → What are you asking or praying for your children?

2.9.2. Help them to look to their future by asking questions, & praying with them to seek what God would have them to do or be.

2.9.2.1. So they don’t just end up “**making a buc**” but instead, “**making a difference**”!

2.9.3. “**Every child is a bundle of possibilities!**” [Tell them that parents]

2.9.3.1. The real, “No child left behind!” 😊

3. **A HORN & A DAYSPRING!** (67-80)

3.1. **A HORN!** (67-75)

3.2. **Thanks** to God for the coming of Messiah! (67-70)

3.3. **Blessed** – (Latin = Benedictus)

3.4. The 1st half of this song weaves together several **OT promises** that are fulfilled in the Messiah’s coming.

3.4.1. Thus he is praising God for **fulfilling His promises** to His people.
3.5. **The Purpose** of the Messiah’s coming! (71-75)
3.6. **Note:** David covenants are fulfilled in Him(68-72); & also Abraham’s covenants(73-75).
   3.6.1. God keeps His promises & is faithful to His covenants.
3.7. **Visited & redeemed** is the major theme of this hymn of praise!
   3.7.1. God was visiting His people, but Jesus will later rebuke them because “they didn’t know the time of their visitation” (19:44).
   3.7.1.1. Q: Would you like a visit from Jesus over to your house?
   3.7.1.2. I can arrange it this morning, I have connections! (serious)
   3.7.2. Matter of fact I can do one better for you this morning!
   3.7.2.1. I can promise not only a visit, but He will set up permanent residence in your hearts home!
   3.7.2.2. But…He only comes if He can move in & never leave!
3.8. **Horn of salvation** – one who is strong to save. {Not a musical instrument!}
   3.8.1. The horn of an animal is its strength.
   3.8.1.1. Story - Dean & I went Quail hunting at in Anza. Why do they keep saying they’ll put away the animals? Were not going to miss & shot them? (Largest Bulls I’ve ever seen!!!) [Big Horns]
   3.8.1.2. Ps.18:1,2 “I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
   3.8.1.2.1. Shield, defensive weapon; Horn, offensive!
3.9. **THE HIGHEST & THE LORD!** (76,77)
3.10. **The Mission** of John! (76,77)
3.11. Only two verses about John “you child” but really describes more about Christ.
   3.11.1. John will prepare the way of the Lord(76) & proclaim the words of the Lord(77).
3.12. Remission/forgiveness of their sins- Do you realize, estrangement from God is turned to friendship!
   3.12.1. The distant God…becomes near!
   3.12.2. The God we feared…is become the lover of the souls of men!
3.13. **A DAYSPRING!** (78,79)
3.14. Further picture of Messiah’s coming! (78,79)
3.15. Dayspring – sunrise, or dawn. A celestial luminary.
   3.15.1. The springing of the day is produced, & only can be produced, by the rising of the sun!
   3.15.2. As we only have **1 sun** in nature, so we only have **1 Sun** in Grace!
3.15.3. **Read** Mal.4:2 “But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness** shall arise With healing in His wings;”

3.15.3.1. True believers will see the dawning of a new day, as the “Sun of Righteousness” arises.

3.15.4. **Explain the common Sun Disk:** (A sun with wings, depicting its rays).

3.15.5. **This has been found on at least 16 plates & many monuments in the Near East** (esp. in Egypt, Syria, & Assyria).

3.15.5.1. The winged sun usually presides over the event recorded.

3.16. **Q:** Why do you think Jesus would be given this title?

3.16.1. **Q:** What of the Sun...reminds you of Christ?

3.16.2. It’s **Consistent;** It’s **Center** of our solar system; Its **Vastness;** It’s **Burning** (Enough hydrogen is left in sun's core to last another 4.5 billion years); It’s **Beauty & Glory;** It's **Source of life**...it causes to grow or wither; it’s **Source of light;** It’s **Warmth;** Both its **Rising & Setting** is the finest spectacle in creation.

3.16.3. This is also where Charles Wesley got the 3rd stanza in “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”...“Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light & life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.”

3.16.4. **Ps.84:11** “For the LORD God is a sun and shield;”

3.16.5. In Christ, a new day has dawned! Christ has borne your curse. **Come! Warm yourself in the light of His forgiveness & healing.**

3.17. **It was the dawning of a new day!** [Because Messiah was about to be born]

3.17.1. A new day for you to **dedicate** your life to Jesus!

3.17.2. A new day for you to **rededicate** yourself to Him!

3.17.3. A new day for **Hope**!

3.18. **To give light** – to those in darkness!

3.18.1. When someone turns off the light when you’re in a pitch black room, you stand still until the light comes on.

3.18.1.1. When the light comes on it sets you in motion!

3.19. **To guide our feet** – to know the way!

3.19.1. Where does He guide our feet?...Into the path of peace!

3.19.2. **Ps.105:1** “Your word is a lamp to my feet & a light to my path.”

3.19.2.1. Now we Jesus is the same!

3.20. **John in a Verse!** (80)


3.21.1. He grew physically & spiritually.

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4 Chuck Swindoll; pg.114,115
3.22. **In the desert – Wilderness.** The desolate region around the Jordan & the Dead Sea [near Essene community]

3.22.1. “Then Jacob was **left alone;** and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.” (Gen.32:24)

3.23. **Left Alone! – What does that mean to you?**

3.23.1. **To some** it means **loneliness** & **grief**; **others** think **rest** & **quiet**!

3.23.2. **To be left alone without** God would be **too horrible for words**!

3.23.3. **To be left alone with** Him is a **taste of heaven**!

3.23.3.1. Maybe if we spent more time alone with Him we’d have spiritual giants again?

3.23.4. **Jesus** left us an example of getting alone with God.

3.23.5. He commanded **us** to get alone with God, “when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place” (Mt.6:6)

3.23.6. **Elijah & Elisha’s** greatest miracles took place when they were alone w/God.

3.23.7. **Joshua** was alone when the Lord came to him. (Joshua 1:1)

3.23.8. **Gideon & Jephthah** were by themselves when commissioned to save Israel. (Judges 6:1; 11:29)

3.23.9. **Moses** was by himself at the burning bush. (Ex. 3:1-5)

3.23.10. **Cornelius** was praying by himself when the angel of God came to him. (Acts 10:1-4)

3.23.11. **Peter** was alone on the housetop when he was instructed to go to the Gentiles. (Acts 10:9-28)

3.23.12. **John the beloved** was alone on the island of Patmos when he was the closest to God. (Rev. 1:9)

3.23.13. **And here, John the Baptist** was alone in the wilderness.

3.23.13.1. Earnestly desire to get alone w/God.

3.23.13.2. If we neglect to do so, we not only rob ourselves of a blessing but rob others as well.

3.23.14. **“We’d do well to be in the desert more often!”** [We have a perpetual droning in our ears. The hum of activity, the rattle of life’s pleasures, the wail of its distresses]

3.24. The last part of the verse is **full of anticipation!** *(see 3:2)*

3.25. Remember, **Jesus** is looking not for **temp housing**, but for a **permanent location**!

3.25.1. **Q:** Would you like to make your heart Christ’s home?

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5 Adapted from Streams in the Desert; Feb.27th