

Luke 1:57-80**12-18-05*****“A Horn & a Dayspring!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Importance of our prayer meetings at end of month.

2. WRITING & WORSHIPPING! (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.
 - 2.5.6.1. Changing of names revealed a transformation in **character** or **destiny**.

¹ LKGNT 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 Abrahams 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 bill yrs); 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.**⁴
- 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. Luke sums up John's childhood in this single verse.
 3.21.1. He grew physically & spiritually.

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?⁵
- 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?

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