

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL

20 December 2020

Text: Luke 1:56-80

Subject: "Blessed is the Lord God"

INTRODUCTION

1. The Benedictus of Zacharias Luke 1:67-79
2. This Benedictus
(Latin... Named after his opening words "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel") Luke 1:68
3. There are 2 Parts to the Benedictus
 - a) A prophetic utterance of Zacharias concerning God's salvation
Luke 1:68-75
 - b) A prophetic utterance concerning his own son, John Luke 1:76-79

A PROPHETIC UTTERANCE

1. The last prophet of note was Malachi
2. There was a gap of 400 years of silence
3. This was a rare prophetic utterance given by Zacharias

THE SALVATION GOD WAS REVEALED THROUGH ZACHARIAS

1. Zacharias was functioning as a prophet of God at this point
 - a) He was forgiven fully
 - b) He was filled with the Spirit of God
 - c) He spoke as a prophet of God
2. He sought to reveal God's Involvement
 - a) Blessing the Lord God of Israel Luke 1:68a
 - i) He could not but bless the Lord
 - ii) His heart and mind were greatly enlightened
 - iii) He was no longer filled with doubts
 - iv) There was no more unbelief in his heart

b) Personal Reasons for blessing the Lord

i) His heart was filled with a new sense of thanksgiving

ii) He was greatly enlightened by the Spirit of God

c) Profound reasons for blessing God

i) God had visited His people Luke 1:68b

ii) He has redeemed His people Luke 1:68c

iii) He has raised up a horn of salvation Luke 1:69a

iv) In the house of His servant David Luke 1:69b

d) Remembering God's prophetic word

i) God had spoken by His prophets Luke 1:70a

ii) God has always been speaking to Israel Luke 1:70b

iii) That His people would be saved
from their enemies Luke 1:71a

iv) And from the hand of all who
had hated them Luke 1:71b

e) The mercy of God

i) Mercy had been promised to
the forefathers Luke 1:72a

ii) He had given to Israel a covenant Luke 1:72b

iii) God will perform (fulfil) His word Luke 1:72

f) The oath God gave to Abraham

i) God had given an oath to Abraham Luke 1:73

ii) God would honour that word

g) The promise of deliverance

- | | |
|---|------------|
| i) Deliverance from enemies | Luke 1:74a |
| ii) That Israel, saved, would serve Him | Luke 1:74b |
| h) Serving God | |
| i) Without fear | Luke 1:74c |
| ii) In holiness and righteousness | Luke 1:75a |
| iii) All the days of our life | Luke 1:75b |

A GREAT PROPHETIC CHALLENGE

1. To Comprehend the Salvation that God gives

- a) Renewal of appreciation
- b) To stand in awe of God
- c) To desire to respond to God appropriately

2. A deeper understanding of the Promise God gave to Israel

- a) To Abraham
- b) To the forefathers
- c) Through the prophets

3. The basis of God's salvation

- a) The mercy of God
- b) The Person of God
 - i) He is a Promise-keeping God
 - ii) He is a Powerful God who can and will fulfil all that He has said
- c) That Salvation would be given through the Lord Jesus Christ

4. The Results of God's Salvation

- a) Redeemed
- b) Delivered

c) To serve God

i) With courage

ii) With gratitude

iii) With holiness and righteousness

iv) Faithfully to the end of our life