

A Study of the Gospel of Luke – Part One
Lesson 3

➤ **Read Luke 1:57–80.**

1. We have already seen that Elizabeth’s pregnancy was miraculous. How is the birth of her son now described? (v. 58a)
2. According to Jewish custom, on the eighth day Zechariah and Elizabeth had a party to circumcise and name the baby. Why are the guests surprised that Elizabeth declares his name to be John? (vv. 59–61)
3. Throughout the Bible names mean a great deal. Consider the meanings of the names below. Why is each one appropriate?
Zechariah: *God has remembered*

Elizabeth: *the oath of God*

John: *Yahweh is gracious*
4. Zechariah writes “His name is John” (v. 63) on the tablet. Why do you think his tongue is loosed at this very moment?

5. After nine months of silence, the first thing that comes from Zechariah's mouth is praise (v. 64). Jesus taught that we speak from what is stored up in our hearts (Lk. 6:45). What does verse 64 indicate has been going on in Zechariah's heart during his nine months of silence?
6. How can Zechariah's story encourage us when we struggle with unbelief or have a difficult time trusting God?
7. How do the people in the community respond to all that has happened? (vv. 58, 65–66)

In this passage we see that joy is contagious. Write down a time when you shared in someone else's joy.

► **Read Luke 1:67–80.**

8. Look again at verses 68–69. Note that these future events are described as if they have already taken place. What does this say about God's promises?

9. Fill in the chart below to see how Jesus fulfills Zechariah's prophecy.

Zechariah's Prophecy	Jesus' Fulfillment
v. 68: "he has come to his people and redeemed them"	Gal. 3:13 1 Pet. 1:18-19 Gal. 4:4-5
v. 69: "He has raised up a horn of salvation"	Acts 4:12 1 Thess. 5:9
v. 69: "in the house of his servant David"	Mt. 1:1 Rom. 1:3 Rev. 22:16
v. 71: "salvation from our enemies"	Titus 3:3-7
v. 74a: "to rescue us from the hand of our enemies"	1 Jn. 3:8
vv. 74b-75: "enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness"	Rom. 8:1-2 Heb. 2:14-15 1 Jn. 4:16-18

10. How is Zechariah's child, John, going to prepare the way for Jesus? (vv. 76-77)

11. Jot down the variety of ways Zechariah refers to Jesus in verses 76–79.

12. What motivated God to send his son to rescue those “living in darkness and the shadow of death?” (v. 78)

The Horn of Salvation

Zechariah calls Jesus, the promised Messiah, the “horn of salvation” (v. 69). This reference “is drawn from the [Old Testament], where it pictures an ox with horns that is able to defeat enemies with the powerful thrust of its protected head.... The image was transferred to the warrior who had a horned helmet to symbolize the presence of power.... The figure is also used to describe God himself.... In particular the term was also used for a powerful regal figure. In some of these references the horn is specifically tied to the [house of David], which is portrayed as delivering the nation.... The nature of the powerful messianic deliverance is spelled out the in the following verses, especially Luke 1:71, 74. Zechariah portrays a Messiah of great power and strength who will deliver God’s people from their enemies.”¹

13. Re-read Zechariah’s song and give thanks for what God has done and will do for his people (vv. 68–79).

¹ Darrell L. Bock. *Luke: Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Vol. 1: 1:1—9:50 (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994), 180.
Ox: Deut. 33:17; Warrior: Ps. 75:4–5, 10; God: Psalm 18:2; House of David: 1 Sam. 2:10