

**The Peace of Christmas**

**Luke 1:67-79** <sup>67</sup>His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: <sup>68</sup>"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup>(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup>salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- <sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup>to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, <sup>77</sup>to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven <sup>79</sup>to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (NIV 84)

- I. Zechariah first prophesies about the coming Messiah.
  - A. Both prophesies were inspired by the **Holy Spirit**. V. 67
  - B. The Messiah would be **God**, Himself, coming and redeeming His people. V. 68
  - C. The Messiah would be powerful and would bring **salvation**. V. 69
  - D. The Messiah would be from the house of **David**. This couldn't be referring to John the Baptist because he was from the line of Levi.
  - E. The Messiah would bring permanent salvation for those who were in a holy **covenant** with God. V. 71-75
  - F. He will be called the Rising Sun and will come directly from **heaven**. V. 78-79
- II. Then Zechariah prophesies about his son, John the Baptist.
  - A. He will be a **prophet** of the Most High. V. 76
  - B. He will **prepare** the way for the Messiah. V. 76
  - C. He will **proclaim** to the people the coming Messiah. V. 77
- III. What can we take away from this?
  - A. We have a permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **Prophecy** over your children, grandchildren.
  - B. It is important that we stop looking for **messiahs**. We have the only one that we need!
  - C. Peace with God, peace with others and peace with our selves is a **birthright** of being saved by the Messiah. We need to live within this peace.