

## Jesus Came to Deliver Us From Our Enemies

*Luke 1:67-75 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*

Zacharias makes it quite clear that this coming Messiah was promised from the very beginning of time. Since the world began and immediately after the fall God promised that He would provide a Redeemer that would crush Satan and provide a glorious victory for His people. (Rom. 16:20) At the very moment that the curse of death fell upon mankind God promised a Messiah that would partake of flesh and blood, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Heb 2:14) It is of great importance to be aware and to make others aware that there are, throughout the Old Testament, several detailed prophecies concerning this Messiah's conception, birth, childhood, ministry, death, burial and resurrection. Not just general prophecies but detailed prophecies that would make it impossible for an imposter to be the promised Messiah.

When Zacharias, by the Holy Spirit, tells us that God has "*raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began*", God is telling us that we can know, with full confidence, that this is the Christ, for this large amount of foretelling regarding this promised one having been fulfilled provides us absolute evidence that Jesus is indeed the Christ; we need not look for another. For only supernaturally given predictions could provide such detailed evidence.

The Apostles did not merely feel that Jesus was the Christ nor do they present a faith that is based upon "made up stories", but told us plainly that they did not make up cunningly devised fables but were straight forward in telling us the details of the person, work and life of the Lord. They pointed out that His whole life was the fulfillment of the writings of the Old Testament and thereby informed us that they were able to proclaim with absolute confidence their proclamation that Jesus was indeed the Christ. Luke, in his introductory remarks of his gospel tells us that he wrote that we might know the certainty of Jesus being the Christ. He writes, "*Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.* (Luke 1:1-4) This is why we, in a world of uncertainty, we can proclaim a Redeemer who has been proven to be the Lord's Christ for all the prophecies concerning the Christ, and they are numerous, were all fulfilled in Christ Jesus our Lord

Every other religion in the world is a "made up". Religions that have, as their source, the foolishness of the minds of men, ours comes to us from Almighty God; through supernatural revelation from the only true God. The Christian faith is a revealed faith therefore it is the only true faith. Our faith is not based upon feeling, but the certainty of the fulfillment of Scripture.

Thus far we have considered the purpose for which our Lord came. He came to redeem His people, to deliver them from the captivity of sin and of Satan. This morning then I want us to take note of what is the result in our behalf of that deliverance. We have considered the means; let us now consider the effect, the end product of that deliverance.

A. The effect, the end product of the believer's deliverance. - That we should be **saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

1. What do you think would be in the mind of those living at that time when they heard those words?
  - a. The removal of Herod from his throne?
  - b. The overthrow of Roman occupation?
  - c. And the restoration of the kingdom to Israel?
  - d. But this was not the purpose of God sending His Son into the world.
2. Who then are these enemies from which God's people need to be delivered
  - a. For them in that day it was **not** the Roman empire
  - b. Sadly the church today still struggles with hoping for victory in terms of material benefits
    - (1) We need a more Christian oriented civil government
    - (2) How to have financial security - a good marriage etc etc
3. Who then are the enemies of the church?

4. The principal war of the church of God is not with flesh and blood

*Eph 6:12-13 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

5. Our enemy is Satan but Christ defeated him at the Cross.

a. The accuser of the brethren has been defeated, forever vanquished

*Rev 12:10-11 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "**Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.*

b. All the accusations of Satan against us are without foundation for our sins have been covered by the blood of the Lamb.

(1) Because we have been cleansed of our sins by His blood - ". . . the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

(2) God no longer imputes our sins to us - We now have the imputed righteousness of Christ

*Rom 4:6-8 Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."*

(3) Therefore we are "without condemnation" (cf. Rom 8:1)

6. The curse of the law has been removed. - "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." Gal 3:10

a. The law condemned as unclean

b. The blood of Christ has removed the curse

*1 John 1:7 the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

7. Finally, what Paul called "that last great enemy" has been defeated.

a. It was death that passed upon all men - 1 Cor. 15:22 *For as in Adam all die*

b. But the above verse did not stop there it goes on to proclaim to the redeemed, - *even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

c. When Christ rose from the dead He provided for us an everlasting victory.

*1 Cor. 15:20-22 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive*

d. Thus we cry out - *thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Cor. 15:57

CONCLUSION: Aren't you glad this morning the enemy Christ defeated was not simply Rome?

Aren't you glad that the kingdoms of this world have always been subject to our God and therefore they are not the subject matter of this prophecy this morning?

For instead - we have been "*saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us*"

Enemies that could do us eternal harm

Indeed it was Satan, the accuser of the brethren, who was defeated.

He who could accuse of sin - - - has lost all grounds of his accusations against us.

Because - *the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* 1 John 3:8

Hell's grip upon us has been defeated.

Sin's power to condemn us has been defeated.

Death is no longer a threat to us.

Because - *there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **because** the law of the Spirit of life through Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death* (Rom 8:1-3)