

Why Did Our Lord Visit His People?

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."

Last Lord's day we noted from the text before us that the very God of heaven has visited His people. This morning as we continue to consider this passage we shall see why the Lord was willing to leave the glories of heaven above and come down amongst us as one of us. As the Apostle writes in Hebrews chapter 2, "*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same*".

So there are two questions that are answered for us in this prophecy of Zacharias, The first is, "Why did our Lord visit us, that is, what was His purpose?" and the second is "And what did He accomplish in our behalf?" This morning we shall look at this first answer given to us.

I. Why did our Lord visit us, what was His purpose?

A. First thing that Zacharias proclaims is that has God visited His people in order to redeem them.

1. Calvin translated the verse thus, - *God looked upon his people, that he might redeem them.*
2. The word used here speaks of paying of a ransom in order to liberate a captive.
3. To fully understand what Christ did for us it is well that we understand the seriousness of man's condition without this redemption.
 - a. First it is imperative that we understand that we were prisoners.
 - b. We were captives of Satan as Paul speaks of the sinner as being in *the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.* 2 Tim 2:25-26
 - c. And again in Romans Paul speaks of the sinner as being in bondage **slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness.** Rom 6:17
 - d. And again our sinful state is described as being *in bondage under the elements of the world.* Gal 4:3
 - e. This is a bondage that began with the moment of our conception and we are therefore by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Eph. 2:4)
 - f. In a state wherein we could not save ourselves.

B. His purpose then was to redeem His people who were in captivity.

1. Thus we read that God has raised up **a horn of salvation.**
 - a. The horn is a symbol of power and authority
 - b. Our Lord has the authority to forgive sins for He is the HORN of our salvation
 - c. That is the reason he came into the world to save sinners.
 - d. His authority to forgive sin is illustrated by our Lord and the paralytic man - may know that I have power to forgive sins - rise take up your bed and walk. (Mt. 9:2)
2. He does this in the house of His servant David. - *In the house of His servant David.*
 - a. This is an important teaching for the church today for it tells us that Christ is indeed the fulfillment of the promise to David; that a King would sit upon His throne forever.
 - b. There are those that accuse us of teaching a "replacement theology"
 - c. Christ has been placed upon the throne of David as was promised by the Angel when he spoke to Mary.

Luke 1:32-33 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

- d. The church is simply the fulfillment of all of the Old Testament prophesy regarding God's people.
- e. This is the proclamation by James at the Council in Jerusalem

*Acts 15:13-17 James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. **And with this the words of the prophets agree**, just as it is written: 'After! this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord who does all these things.'*

3. Thus the throne of David become the eternal throne of Heaven's great glory

- a. The scroll no one was able to open but for the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.

Rev 5:5-6 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain

- b. The praise that shall be lifted up to the King on David's throne.

Rev 5:12, 13 "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" . . . "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

- 4. And to this all the prophets agree. - *As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began.*
 - a. Simply stated Christ is the fulfillment of the prophetic promises of the Old Testament
 - b. We have the witness of Christ.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

CONCLUSION: This then is good news to both Jew and Gentile, Old Testament and New Testament saints who have been redeemed by this child born of the Virgin Mary.

Eph 2:11-13 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.