

“Zacharias’ Sermon”

Part 2

Luke 1:76-80

July 11, 2021

Luke 1:76-80

76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS;

77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,

79 TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

80 And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

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- This is a very tender scene.

- Zacharias may have picked the baby up in his arms and said these words as he looked in the baby's eyes.

- Zacharias is now going to give us the 8 features of the future ministry and message of this baby boy –

1. He will be a prophet of the Most High.

- "prophet" – one who will speak-forth, to proclaim.
- "Most High" – He is absolutely sovereign.

2. He will prepare the way for the Messiah.

- Why do you need someone to prepare the way?

1. To reveal the need for repentance of sin.
2. To call Israel back to God.
3. To announce the One who will provide forgiveness by His death.

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3. He will bring the message of salvation to Israel.

- Israel has strayed. They have drifted. John will call them back.

Isa 53:6

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,

Each of us has turned to his own way;

But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all

To fall on Him.

Heb 2:1

2 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

2 ways you can drift:

1. Doctrinally – what you believe.

2. Personally - your walk with God.

*The greatest danger to your Christian life is drifting.

Luke 1:16

16 "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

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4. He will announce that salvation comes by the forgiveness of sin.
- Let's think this through: There is no salvation unless the sin issue is dealt with.
- If you bypass sin, you bypass salvation.
- It is at the crux of salvation and is the biggest stumbling-block for salvation because it requires humility to admit you are bankrupt and have nothing to offer.
- But this is the message every person needs to hear.

Eph 1:7-8

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
8 which He lavished on us.

"All of us are spiritually bankrupt, unable to pay our debt.
But Jesus came and paid the debt for us."

- Warren Wiersbe

"We owed a debt we could never repay.
Jesus paid a debt He did not owe!"

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5. His message of salvation comes because of God's mercy. "tender" – σπλαγγισμός – strongest word in Greek to show feeling, compassion.

Rom 5:6,8

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

6. He will declare that the Messiah, like a morning sunrise, will come to visit us.

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Phil 2:6-7

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

John will be there to announce the sunrise!

Has Christ visited you? Has He appeared on the horizon of your life? Has His rays of hope and salvation pierced your darkened soul? Have you rejected or received Him?

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

Ris'n with healing in His wings:

Mild He lays His glory by,

Born that man no more may die;

Born to raise the sons of earth;

Born to give them second birth.

- Charles Wesley

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Isa 60:2

2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And deep darkness the peoples;
But the Lord will rise upon you
And His glory will appear upon you.

Mal 4:2

2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

Matt 24:27

27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

John 1:6-9

6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

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7. His message will be a message of hope in the Messiah who will, as a brilliant sun, shine upon those in darkness, who are burdened by the shadow of death.

- Apart from Christ there is no hope, no way out. You sit in the darkness. Death is your fate. No escape. You are a slave to the darkness.

- Light will allow you to move, to live.

John 3:19-20

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

John 9:5

5 "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

John 12:35

5 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

2 Peter 1:19

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

1 John 1:5

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Rev 22:16

16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

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8. His message will establish peace with God, and then peace within ourselves.

Rom 5:1

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;

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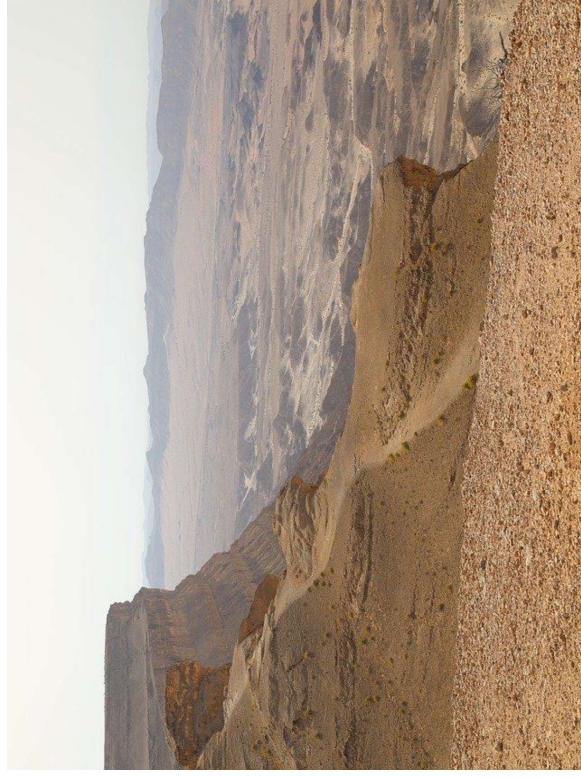
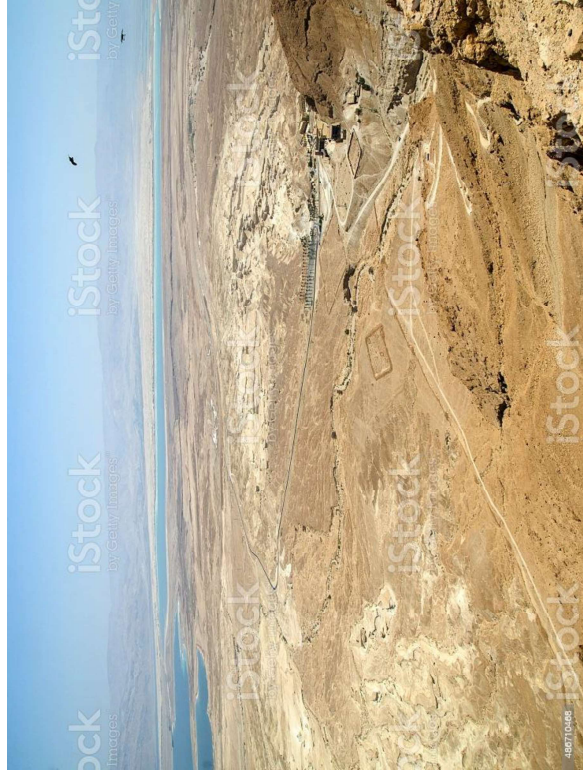
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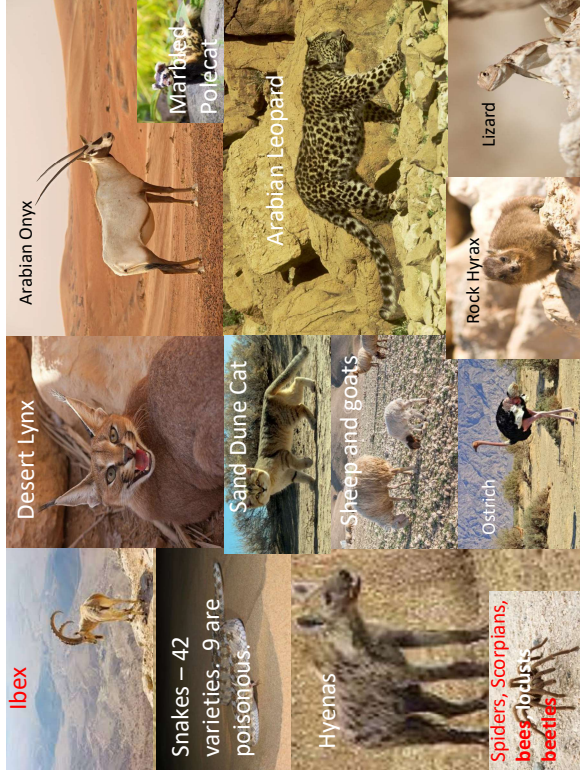
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- John was in the desert because that is where God trains many of His prophets.

“The Judean Desert is marked by barren wilderness, mountains, terraces and escarpments rather than rolling sand dunes. The final escarpment drops steeply to the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley. The desert is criss-crossed by a number of valleys (wadis) and has deep ravines cutting through the rock.”





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- John was in the desert because that is where God trains many of His prophets.
- Its called “Desert University”.
- Those who attended Desert University: Israel, Jesus, Paul, John the Baptist.



“Great minds are reared in solitude. Lone places are fit nurses for God’s heroes. We should be all the better if we were oftener alone; in the solemn silence of nature sanctified spirits find a congenial atmosphere.”

- Spurgeon

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- Those who attended Desert University: Israel, Jesus, Paul, John the Baptist.
- If there is one thing which characterized John, it was that he was a man who was set apart.

He was set apart by –

- his calling before his birth
- by his unusual birth
- by his “Nazarite” life
- by his name
- time spent in the desert
- wore different clothing,
- ate very different food.

- **Note:** Don't pigeon-hole people and don't be pigeon-holed. Every believer is called to a special ministry. It may be different but it is custom-made by God. There is no such thing as cookie-cutter believers.

1 Cor 12:4-7

- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
- 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

- The Israelites were to be different from the Canaanites - special covenant, special commandments, eat certain food, act differently, worship differently, etc. to set them apart, That's what holiness is – to be set apart.

- Holiness is required if we are to represent and reflect a holy God to a sinful world.

Are you different from the world?

Do you:

1. think differently than the world?
2. have different desires than the world?
3. spend your time differently than the world?
4. react differently than the world?
5. have as friends those who are of like belief?

Summary:

- John had a unique ministry and a distinct message. John was a unique package of gifts, talents, personality, where he lived.
- All of us are unique packages as well. But the message we bring to the world is the same – repent of your sin, believe in the Messiah for salvation and you shall have peace.