JESUS, THE RISING SUN

Luke 1:57–80

Key Verse: 1:79

1. How did people regard the birth of Elizabeth’s son? Why was it seen as God’s great mercy to her? (1:25) What was done on the eighth day? What did it mean to circumcise a baby? What did everyone assume about his name? What did Elizabeth say, and why? How did the people respond?

2. What did they ask Zechariah, and why? (Why could he not speak?) How did he answer, and why was this so astonishing? What immediately happened to him, and what did he do? What spiritual lessons can we learn from Zechariah and Elizabeth? How did people respond? (65–66) What did it mean that “the Lord’s hand was with him”?

3. For what did Zechariah praise God in verse 68? What did it mean that God had “come to his people and redeemed them”? What does it mean to us? What shows that God had kept his promises (69b–70)?

4. In verse 69, what does “horn” symbolize? (See Ps148:14) Why do we need the horn of salvation? (Da7:21) What happens to us when Satan impales us with his horn? (Ro1:29-31) How does Jesus our horn of salvation heal us? (Isa53:5; 1Pe2:24) How can we experience his healing?

5. Note the repetition of the word “enemy” (71,74). In history, who had been Israel’s enemies? Who is our real “enemy”? (1Pe5:8) What is Jesus’ purpose in saving us? (74–75) Think about what it means to serve God “without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.” How is this possible for us?

6. What would be the mission of Zechariah’s son? (76–77) What else can we learn here about God’s salvation? Read verses 78–79. Think about what it means to live in darkness and in the shadow of death. How does the imagery of the “rising sun” help us understand how Jesus works in our lives? What does he give us?