



**CAPITOL
COMMISSION**

Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders



Ron Comoglio, Alabama State Minister

Ron.Comoglio@capitolcom.org

PHONE: (334) 476-9333

WWW.CAPITOLCOM.ORG

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited us and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.” Luke 1:68-69

Luke 1:39-80 - The Holy Spirit Inspires a Song and a Blessing

Last week we studied the angelic announcements to Zechariah the priest and then Mary. Picking up our narrative after the Gabriel’s visits (read verses 39-45), we have a now-pregnant Mary taking a trip to visit Zechariah’s wife, Elizabeth—likely inspired by the news from Gabriel in v 36 that this elderly relative is also miraculously expecting a baby. Only Luke records this interaction between the mothers and how even their unborn babies seemed to connect. Look back at Gabriel’s words in v 15, how John would be “filled with the Holy Spirit even from the womb”. This event in v 41 seems to fulfill that. We know John is six months older than Jesus from verse 26 but sentient enough to react to the presence of the embryonic Savior.

Mary’s response to Elizabeth’s exclamation is a poetic song of praise we now call the *Magnificat* (read verses 46-56). In this song we learn in the midst of her praising God that she also needs a savior and she sees herself as a servant of the Lord; and her humility would be remembered into the future. This is important since we know she encountered a difficult time in her hometown since being found to be with child. This stigma likely followed her for her whole life, but notice how her faith is strong because of the object of her faith. She also knows her scriptures, as she recounts the good things God had done for Israel and the line of Abraham; genealogy being an important element in her selection as the mother of Jesus (more in Ch 3).

In vss 57 through 80 we see the birth of John the Baptist. Although told by Gabriel they would have a son, it was only at birth they could confirm that the baby was indeed a boy (no ultrasounds in Judea). Then, in obedience to the command of v 13, Elizabeth insists on christening him “John” (which means *Jehovah has Shown Grace*); only when Zechariah confirms it is he released from the muteness he has experienced for at least nine months. Recall this baby was foretold by Gabriel (v 14) that “many will rejoice at his birth”. This refers to the fact that for over 400 years God had raised no prophets in Israel—there was no special revelation

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastor-missionaries who in session teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for all those working in state capitols. The Bible studies are hand distributed to each legislative office and available by email and shared across the Capitol Commission community. This ministry is an extension of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message and help believers mature through Biblical expositional instruction. Prayer is foundational to this ministry, consistent with proper submission to governmental authority (Romans 13:1-7) and obedient to the command to pray for our appointed leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Our desire is to witness God’s work in transforming hearts.

Capitol Commission is a non-political and non-lobbying 501(c)(3).

since the prophet Malachi. Now here comes one “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (vs 17) who will act as herald to the coming of the king, which is why he goes into the wilderness after he is grown (v 80).

Notice the four mentions of the active work of the Holy Spirit in this chapter: 1) The mention of John having it from the first (v 15), 2) the conception of Jesus in Mary’s womb (v 35), 3) Elizabeth becoming filled with the Spirit to proclaim a blessing on Mary, and 4) when Zechariah is given his voice back and pronounces a blessing starting at v 67—the old priest now believes Gabriel! The common thread is God working in the background to produce a unified message, which is what the entire Bible is. From Genesis to Revelation we have a story of how God identifies and then redeems His people—from Egyptian bondage in Exodus to the release from the Babylonian/Persian captivity, to Jesus’ message of rescue from the domain of sin.

Let’s not miss that message by looking at these key verses of Chapter 1: v 31, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus” (which means Jehovah is **salvation**); vss 46-47, “And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my **Savior**”; vss 76-77, “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of **salvation** to his people in the forgiveness of their sins.”

The anticipation of this one from David’s line who is bringing a long-awaited salvation is finally being realized in the birth of this one who is a son of David *and* the son of God. Unfortunately, many in His day expected this to be only a political salvation from Rome; what the coming kingdom of God offers is ultimate salvation which crushes the serpent’s head (as foretold in Gen 3:15), ushers in the king, and enables us to become holy and dwell with God by forgiving our sins (v 77). In other words, a return to the garden setting of Eden, when sinless Adam and Eve enjoyed undiluted communion with God. This is where the Bible goes.

Applications

1. Have you had days where your faith was shaken, perhaps by circumstances beyond your control, that caused you to harbor doubts? You are not alone and you are not deficient! Your faith must be centered on a strong object of faith, Christ Jesus Himself, the rock of our salvation and the cornerstone of the church. The more you know about Him from the word of God, the stronger your faith will grow.
2. Do you know when the Holy Spirit entered your life? It could be a certain day or over a period of time. If so, praise God for His goodness as Savior! If not, let’s talk about what it means to be indwelt by the Spirit of God and what we mean when we say “saved”.

My desire is to highlight Jesus Christ to you. Toward that end, I am available to discuss any biblical topic or question you may have. I especially want to ensure all who read the studies understand how Jesus Christ is distinctively important to the entire world and to each of us individually. Lastly, all Bible studies are available at Capitol Commission’s Alabama page: <https://capitolcom.org/state/alabama>.

“Lunch With Luke”: Plan to attend our in-house Bible Study during session: Tuesdays at 11:00 am in Room 123 of the State House. Bring a beverage, a light lunch will be provided.

A key facet empowering our ministry is prayer, especially prayer for our elected leaders. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 commands Christians to obediently pray for all in authority. A tool for America’s churches to help consistently pray for you, our elected leaders, is available to all via:

www.Pray1Tim2.org - You can select Alabama and sign up for daily email reminders, courtesy of Capitol Commission.

Share this link with your home church!