

Who's the Subject?

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The Nativity of John the Baptist
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Is 40.1-5; Acts 13.13-26; Lk 1.57-80

Introduction

How do most men react when their wives get pregnant the first time?

I. Zechariah's Response

John the Baptist's father, Zechariah is a _____.
His wife, Elizabeth is descended from _____.
They are both _____ and don't have children.

Luke 1:13-17 (ESV)

¹³ . . . "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

What was Gabriel telling Zechariah? (Cf. Mal 4.5)

What is Zechariah's response?

Luke 1:19–22 (ESV)

¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.

II. Who's the Subject?

Luke 1.57-60

Luke 1.61-67

Zechariah's prophecy is called the _____, (from the Latin word for "blessed," the first word of Zechariah's prophecy).

Why is the *Benedictus* special to the Church?

Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
He has come to His people and redeemed them.

What does it mean to "redeem"?

He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of His servant David.

Jesus was still in the womb, but the Promise was being _____...

2 Sam 7.

Ps 110.

Through His holy prophets He promised of old
that He would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. . .

What are our great enemies?

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember His holy covenant.
This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship Him without fear,
holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.

What does God promise to Abraham (Gen 12, 17, 19)?

Redeemed/rescued from sin, death, and the devil,
we worship--we live--without _____ of God's
punishment. As St. Paul says, "for we are not under
law [condemnation], but under grace." (Rom 6.14)

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most
High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way,

What is Zechariah confessing here?

to give His people knowledge of their salvation
by the forgiveness of their sin.

There is no peace with God, no true "sabbath/rest"
without _____.

"Without the shedding of blood, there is no
_____." (Heb 9.22)"

Why does John the Baptist later say of Jesus, "Look,
the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the
world." (John 1.29)

In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad-
ow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Why is the arrival of the Messiah a "new day" for all
people?

Isaiah 9:2 (ESV)

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light
shone.

Conclusion

CCT: _____ is the subject of our song,
the author and finisher of our faith.

Why is Zechariah's response instructive for you, and
for the church?