

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Previously mentioned –

- Mary and Elizabeth had a wonderful time fellowshiping in the Word – in the message that had been communicated.
- Zacharias, because of a lack of faith, did not have the privilege of participating in that conversation where there was so much joy and gladness.

Faith is a prerequisite for experiencing the wonderful blessing of fellowshiping in conversation with friends about the Word of God.

Luke 1:57-79

(57) Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

- The fulfillment of what Gabriel had communicated to Zacharias.

(58) Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her (Elizabeth and her friends were rejoicing in what the Lord had done by removing the stigma of her barrenness).

- Remember that Elizabeth had been the target of much reproach because she had not given birth.
- The standard of the ancient world for woman was to have children and if she did not she would be considered by many to be under God's disciplined hand.

John's dedication - -

(59) And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child...

The protocol of circumcision –

- Instituted by God for Abraham and his descendents in **Gen 17:10-23** – a sign of being under the [Abrahamic] covenant.
- Prescribed by the Law in **Lev 12:1-8**.
- In a Jewish home circumcision of the male child and the naming of the child are both done on the 8th day.

...and **they were going to call him Zacharias**, after his father.

Leviticus 12:1-8

(1) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

(2) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be **unclean**.'

UNCLEANNESS - Giving birth was not a sin, but if there was a bodily secretion and if you came into contact with that secretion you were considered unclean. A sacrifice had to be made in order to ritually make you pure so you could re-enter the temple.

(3) 'On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin (the male child) shall be circumcised.'

- Elizabeth is considered unclean for 7 days.
- After that her baby can be circumcised.
- A very interesting point about circumcision on the 8th day.

T – torah (5 books of Moses) –

N - Prophets

K – Wisdom literature

- Vitamin K and prothrombin – are required for coagulation of the blood.
- Vitamin K enables the liver to produce the prothrombin.
- The child outside the womb is very delicate and can easily bleed to death.
- On day 8 the level of Vitamin K and pro... jump to 100% above their normal level then drop off to normal levels.
- Modern day medical care uses injections to manager this bleeding problem.
- Isn't it interesting that the highest level of Vitamin K and pro... a male will ever have in his entire life are present on the 8th day – the day that God said, under the Law, that the child was to be circumcised.

BRIS MILAH – The name of the circumcision ceremony today in Jewish culture. BRIS means covenant and MILAH means to cut. Two parts in the ceremony -

- The circumcision.
- The naming of the child.
- **MOHEL** – person that performs the ceremony.
- The father is the one who names the child.

Remember

Luke 1:6 - They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. Zacharias and Elizabeth were following the protocol prescribed by God for the time in which they lived.

Zacharias is still under an angelic gag order – he cannot speak

Luke 1:59

(59) And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father.

Elizabeth speaks up – Jewish custom dictates that she should have nothing to do with naming the child.

(60) But his mother answered and said, "**No indeed; but he shall be called John.**"

Shock is all over the faces of the relatives who are present!

(61) And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name."

So those officiating at this ceremony are not going to allow **Elizabeth** to name the child so they turn to **Zacharias**. Remember he is still under a gag order – he can't speak because of his lack of faith.

(62) And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called.

So they communicate with **Zacharias** to see what he wanted.

(63) And he **asked**...

"**Asked**" - αἰτέω

AITEO – "*motion for*" a tablet to write on

...for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished. Remember Gabriel's conversation with Zacharias in **Luke 1:13** - -

Luke 1:13

(13) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and **you will give him the name John.**

So when Zacharias wrote on the tablet, "**His name is John**" it is a testimony that he has now believed.

Zacharias knows who his son has been chosen to be - - chosen by God.

Then what happens? **FAITH** - - which results in communication.

(64) And at once his **mouth was opened** and **his tongue loosed**, and he **began to speak** in praise of God.

(65) Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.

(66) All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, "What then will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

(67) **And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit...**

"Filled" - *πίμπλημι*

PIMPLEMI – *"to be filled, to fulfill something"*

In the passive voice – *"to be satiated"*

- God the Holy Spirit secures a sphere of influence through enduement to enable Zacharias to communicate God's message.

...and prophesied, saying:

(68) "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,

(69) And has raised up a **horn of salvation** for us in the **house of David His servant—**

Zacharias first expresses praise for what God has done!

"Horn of Salvation" – The Messiah, the One who would rule from David's throne.

HORN – depicts strength. Messiah will exude power and strength.

1 Samuel 2:10

(10) "Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; against them He will thunder in the heavens, the LORD will judge the ends of the earth; and He will give strength to His king, and will exalt the horn of His anointed."



Remember - Matthew 1:1

(1) The record of the genealogy of **Jesus the Messiah**, the **son of David**, the **son of Abraham**:

This now coming out of the mouth of Zacharias, by means of God the Holy Spirit, is a reference to **Jesus Christ – the Horn of Salvation.**

"House of David" – **Jesus Christ**

2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16

(12) "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

(13) "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

(16) "**Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.**"

(70) As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old--

(71) Salvation FROM OUR **ENEMIES**, and FROM THE HAND OF ALL **WHO HATE US**;

Remember the political climate of oppression that was present during the time of Zacharias.

Israel was under the hand of Rome – who they considered their enemy.

And when Messiah came – according to the prophets – all Israel knew that He would deliver them from the hand of their enemies.

***This is what they are expecting Messiah to do!
The Strong One – The Deliverer.***

(72) To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant,

(73) The oath which He swore to Abraham our father (Abrahamic covenant of Gen 12:1-3),

(74) To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without **fear**,

- Fear of being conquered again.
- Fear of being oppressed.

(75) In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. *They will serve Him!*

(76) "And you, child (John), will be called the prophet of the Most High (Jesus Christ – The Messiah); for you will go on **BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS**; Reference Malachi 3:1

Malachi 3:1

(1) "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

John is the messenger of the covenant and his mission is to herald the coming of the King.

- - The Horn of Salvation - -

- - The Descendent of David - -

Now you start to understand the frame of reference of the Jew living during this time.

(77) To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,

One of John's responsibilities was to communicate salvation.

(78) Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise (*Jesus Christ*) 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." Reference Malachi 4:1-6

Forget about what has happened in History as we look back
 Think back prior to the crucifixion of Messiah
 Prior to Christ's arrest in Gethsemane
 As a Jew - you have the Hebrew Scriptures and you know about this promised
 descendent of David
 This gives you the Jewish frame of reference of what they expected of Messiah

Malachi 4:1-6

(1) "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a **furnace...**

- Fire signifying judgment

...and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff...

- A just judgment

...and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the **LORD of hosts...**

- "Lord of the Armies"

..."so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

- The wicked will not return because of the fire of judgment

(2) "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings..."

What had Zacharias prophesied?

What did he communicate under the enduement of the Holy Spirit?

Luke 1:78-79

(78) Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, (*Jesus Christ – the Messiah*)

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

Peace – Characterizes the Kingdom that Messiah will rule!

A Kingdom characterized by righteousness!

A Kingdom run by heavenly standards!

...and you will go forth and **skip about like calves** from the stall.

Joy - - Exaltation

A nation of righteous standards

(3) "You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts.

The Jew is anticipating the "wicked" being "tread down" when the Messiah arrives!

(4) "Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

(5) "Behold, I am going to send you **Elijah** the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

Luke 1:17

(17) "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of **Elijah**, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

(6) "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

Matthew 11:14

(14) "And if you are willing to accept it, **John himself is Elijah** who was to come."

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.