

PRAISE THE LORD! JESUS BRINGS JOYFUL JUBILATION (v.68a)

- **Luke 1:68a** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel," *FOR...*
- Advent must be about applause and adoration! Christmas must be about commendation and celebration! Considering the first coming of Jesus must be about Joyful Jubilee!
- **As the sweet dropper RICHARD SIBBES used to preach in the 17th century,** "The whole life of a Christian should be nothing but praises to God."
- **Q.** What is your Christmas season about? What is your life about?

I) We must praise the Lord because **Christ has visited and redeemed His people** (v. 68b) **II)** Christ is the horn of salvation for us (v. 69a) **III)** Christ is the promised forever-king (vv. 69b-70) **IV)** Christ saves us from our enemies and all who hate us (v. 71) **V)** Christ shows promised mercy to tired saints (v.72a) **VI)** Christ seals the holy covenant by shedding His blood (vv. 72b-73a) **VII)** Christ delivered us to worship Him without fear (vv.73b-74)

VIII) We must praise the Lord because Christ saves to worship Him in holiness & righteousness (v.75)

- **74** that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear," **75** "in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."
- **Psalm 29:2** "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness."
- **Holiness is the cool older brother of happiness;** wherever holiness goes, happiness is sure to tag along even if he is not invited.
- **Q. Do you want to be truly happy? A.** Then look to Christ in faith and be counted holy and blameless before Him by grace.
- **Q. Do you want to be continually happy? A.** Then make it your business to live holy & blameless by obeying Him & relying on Him.
- **Titus 2:14** "[Jesus] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

IX) We must praise the Lord because Christ had prophets such as John prepare His ways (v.76)

- **76** "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways," **Q.** What is he saying?
- **Isaiah 40:3, 5** "3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. . . 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed..."
- **This was the job of all the prophets!** They were preparing the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. He was promised to enter human history through the womb of the virgin in order to rescue His people from their sins and miseries!
- **Prophet's of the Most High,** who wrote the OT, are but the opening acts of the concert of history. They keep saying, "Who's ready to see Jesus? He's comin' up!" **The Apostles of Jesus,** who wrote the NT, are but the hype men on stage during the main event. They are yelling, "Jesus Christ is Savior and King!"
- **Q.** Yet how did John the Baptist specifically do it? **Luke 3:7-9** "7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
- **You must be dealt a deadly blow** or you will never look to Christ for salvation from the sin that has earned you death!
- **Q.** Has God dealt you a deadly blow to your pride and selfishness? Do you know that *on your own* you are a wicked a vile rebel, in leagues with demons?
- **The deadly tumor must be identified** before you will trust the doctor to cut it out!

X) We must praise the Lord because Christ brings salvation to His people (v.77a)

- **77** "to give knowledge of salvation to his people," **Q.** His people? **A.** Yes, His people!
- **BURROUGHS:** "When there were transactions between the Father and Son, you were mentioned in particular; God the Father gave you by name to his Son."
- **Q.** Knowledge of salvation? **Yes! And Oh how we need it!** Do you have this knowledge? Think to yourself, do you remember when you did not have this knowledge? When you did not know that you could stand before God clothed in Jesus' perfect righteousness? Do you remember when you thought that every time you failed God was standing over you waiting to squash you like a bug? Do you remember when you used to cling so tightly to your sin because you thought it would make you happier than Christ? How ignorant we were when we thought those things!
But oh! now in Christ we have the KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION!
- **Isaiah 40:1-2 1** "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. . . cry to her, that...her warfare is ended."
- **Jesus came to the earth as the God-man NOT to simply bring knowledge of salvation but to actually BRING SALVATION to His people!** He came to live, die, arise from the dead, and ascend to heaven so that He could finally declare, "My people? HER WARFARE IS ENDED!"
- **Q.** Has God given you the knowledge of salvation?

XI) We must praise the Lord because Christ brings forgiveness of His peoples' sins (v.77b)

- **77** "in the forgiveness of their sins,"
- **Isaiah 40:1-2 1** "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. . . cry to her, that...her iniquity is pardoned."
- **When God forgives your iniquities He never brings them up again.** He is the perfect forgiver, never throwing your sins back in your face. He has promised "I will remember your sins no more" and He is not like you—He keeps His promises. **(CHILDREN, as far as the east is to the west)**
- **Q.** When was the last time you sinned against someone & then after a good while, they bring it up? When have you done that? **God does not do that to saints.**
- **CHARNOCK:** "If once pardoned, thou will be always pardoned. For the first pardon Christ paid His blood; for the continuance He does but plead His blood."

XII) We must praise the Lord because **Christ is the culmination of the tender mercy of our God (v.78a)**

- **78a** “because of the tender mercy of our God,”
- **Isaiah 40:1-2 1** “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak *tenderly* to Jerusalem, and cry to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned.”
- **Christ is mercy made flesh—and His mercy is a tender mercy.**
- **Oh the tender mercy of God! Christ says, “A bruised reed I will not break, and a faintly burning wick I will not quench” (Is.42:3)**
- **Q. Do you feel like you have been bent so far by afflictions that you will break at any moment? A.** Christ Jesus says, “I will not let you break.”
- **RUTHERFORD:** “I hang by a thread, but it is of Christ’s spinning.” **Q. Do you feel as though your light could go out in a minute? A.** The Lord Jesus says, “I will not let you be quenched.” **SIBBES:** “There is more mercy in Christ than sin in you.” **Q. Do you feel like your weaknesses are too great to do great things for Christ? A.** The God-man says, “My power is made perfect in weakness.”

XIII) We must praise the Lord because **Christ is the sunrise that has visited us from on high (v.78b)**

- **78b** “whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79a “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,”
- **Isaiah 60:2** “For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, & his glory will be seen upon you.”
- **Oh what great reason this is to worship the Lord! Darkness covered the earth, and thick darkness engulfed you—then... the Sunrise!**
- **Q. Why do you need Christ, the Sunrise? Proverbs 4:19** “The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”
- **Isaiah 9:2** “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.”
- **Q. Do you see that this is your own experience? You walked in darkness. You dwelt in a land of deep darkness, and then Christ the Sunrise rose and shone in your heart and on your path!**
- **The Sunrise Jesus Christ says in John 8:12** “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- **Is it possible to remember who you were outside of Christ & think on who you are because of Him & not worship? I think no.**
- **Isaiah 60:1** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

XIV) We must praise the Lord because **Christ guides our feet into the way of peace (v.79b)**

- **79b** “to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
- **Q. Do you want peace?**
- **NATHANIEL VINCENT:** “You must expect peace no other way, but by the blood of the cross.”
- **Hear Jesus saying from heaven,**
- **“My Bride has peace with my Father—I have died to make her clean.”**
- **“My people have peace with one another—I have died to reconcile them.”**
- **“My saints have peace with themselves—I have died to give them inner peace that surpasses understanding.”**
- **“My kingdom will conquer the world—I died to purchase it and I will guide their feet into the way of peace.”**
- **Isaiah 60:17-18** “I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.”

- **FRANCIS WHIDDON:** “Where the blood of Christ is sprinkled on the soul, the conscience is at peace.”
- **CHRISTOPHER LOVE:** “Do not think on the comforts you want, but on the mercies you have.”
- **JOHN BRINSLEY:** “The safest course is to place our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of God and merits of Christ for eternal salvation.”
- **THOMAS BROOKS:** “Delay is the devil’s verb.”
- **ANDREW GRAY (1634-1656):** “Without Christ, the most stately palace is a hell; but with Christ, the most stinking dungeon is a palace.”
- **JOHN PRESTON:** “Look on your own secret sins, your relapses, and then on Christ’s coming with his mercies and favors, and you cannot but love him.”