



Breaking the Silence

Zechariah's Song • Luke 1:57-80

*Christmas and music just seem to go together. What is your favorite Christmas song?
Where did the first Christmas carols come from?*

- ♪ Four of the very first ones are found in the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel and make for a great Advent study.
- ♪ How do these songs help us to live in harmony with God's purpose for our lives? How can we align our lives with the rhythm of our Redeemer as we wait for His second coming?

The Silence of Zechariah (Luke 1:5-25, 57-66)

Why Is God Sometimes Silent in Our Suffering?

1. Silence is sometimes due to God's sovereign, saving **PURPOSES**.
2. Silence is sometimes due to our stubborn, sinful **UNBELIEF**.

When Should the Silence Be Broken and the Song Sung?

1. Whenever God's purposes are being **FULFILLED!**
2. Whenever God's people are being **FAITHFUL!**

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:67-80)

- ♪ The Song Is Saturated with **SCRIPTURE**: *An OT priest has faithfully saturated his life with God's promises!*
- ♪ The Song Is a Prophecy of **PRAISE**: *An OT believer is praising God for the coming of NT blessings!*

The Song of Zachariah is Old Covenant praise for New Covenant fulfillment:

OT = God **PROMISES** what He will do.
NT = God **FULFILLS** what He promises.

Two Lessons to Learn:

1. To persevere through the silences we must know and claim **GOD'S PROMISES**.
 2. To praise Him in song we must be willing to do **OUR PART** in fulfilling his promises.
- ♪ The Song Has One Main **THEME**: *God Breaks the Silence to Save His People from Their Sins!* (v. 68)
VISITING = ADVENT = COMING: *Moved by our misery Christ has come to show us mercy!*
- God's One Purpose Is Accomplished in His Two Advents:**
1. Spiritually and Partially: **NOW** at His First Advent/Coming
 2. Physically and Completely: **NOT YET** at His Second Advent/Coming.
- ♪ The Song Has Two Major Verses: *The Silence Has Been Broken & the Song Is Being Sung!*
 1. First Chorus: He broke the silence to **SEND** His Son to **SAVE** us! (vv. 68-75)
 2. Second Chorus: We break the silence to **PRAISE** Him and **SHARE** the Good News with others. (vv. 76-79)

Eight Reasons to Break the Silence of the Season:

1. God has come to **REMEMBER** His covenant promises. (vv. 72, 70)
2. God has come to **REDEEM** His people. (v. 68)
3. God has come to **RAISE UP** a horn of salvation. (v. 69)
4. Christ has come to **REIGN** over His Kingdom. (vv. 69-70)

♪ This is everything that Zachariah had been praying for in the Holy of Holies!

♪ This is everything that the prophets had been predicting since the world began!

♪ This is everything that the genealogies of Jesus are meant to teach us! *Luke 1:30-33; 3:23-38; Matthew 1:1-17*

♪ This is everything that **ADVENT** is all about—a reminder that at His **first advent** the King came to die for our sins and rise again to sit at the right hand of the Father and at His **second advent** the King will come again to reign over His kingdom!

5. Christ has come to **RESCUE** us from our enemies. (vv. 71, 74)
6. Christ has come to **RELEASE** us from the bondage and burden of our sins. (vv. 76-78)

♪ The prison door has been opened and the captives set free! *Luke 4:16-21 quoting Isaiah 61:1*

♪ The debt has been canceled and the burden lifted! *Luke 3:3-6; 24:46-48; Acts 2:38-42; 20:20-21*

How Is the Release Accomplished?

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Acts 20:20-21

20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, **21** testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1) The heart must be **prepared**.
- 2) The Gospel must be **preached**.
- 3) Our sins must be **repented of**.
- 4) The Lord Jesus Christ must be **trusted**.
- 5) God's tender mercies must **flow**.

7. Christ has come to **RECREATE** us in His image. (vv. 74-75)
8. Christ has come so we can **REACH** out to others and break the silence. (vv. 76, 79)

Break the Silence of the Season

Break it by singing His praises and by sharing Him with others!

Suggestions: Play Christ-centered Christmas songs, celebrate Advent in your home, purchase Adopt-a-Family gifts, send a special note with a personal appeal to a lost friend, host an open house, make a special point to share the gospel with a neighbor or co-worker, invite a friend to Christmas Sunday!