



The Fulfillment of Prophecy
Luke 1:57-79 (ESV)

Luke 1:57-79

- ⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.
- ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.
- ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father,
- ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John."
- ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name."
- ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.

Luke 1:57-79

- ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered.
- ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.
- ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,
- ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Luke 1:57-79

- ⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
- ⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

Luke 1:57-79

- 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
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.

Luke 1:57-79

- ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

I. Zechariah Gets His Voice Back

- ¹³ But the angel said to him, “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. . . .
- ¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” 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.**”

(Luke 1:13-15, 18-20)

I. Zechariah Gets His Voice Back

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- “And . . . Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied” (Luke 1:67)

II. Prophecy Replaces “Determinism” with Assurance, Peace, and Joy

- **Determinism:** No master plan; events are simply the result of cause/effect and scientific laws, or simply by chance
- **Prophecy:** The revelation of future events demonstrates a plan is in place, as planned by a planner, thus undermining determinism
- **Assurance, Peace, and Joy:** Regardless of the situation, we have assurance, peace, and joy knowing God is near and in control
- “Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Types of Prophecy

- Prophecy as Seeing the Future
- Prophecy as Reporting on the Current State of the Church
- Prophecy as Exhortation (Building Up Believers)

Characteristics of Prophecy

- The Specificity and Inevitability of Prophecy
- The Importance of Humility and Obedience (vs. Pride and Belligerence)

III. Old Testament Prophecies on the Coming of the Messiah

- **The Messiah: Descended from David**
- ⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when **I will raise up for David a righteous Branch**, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

(Jeremiah 23:5-6)

III. Old Testament Prophecies on the Coming of the Messiah

- **The Messiah: Born in Bethlehem**
- But you, **O Bethlehem** Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you **shall come forth for me**
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

III. Old Testament Prophecies on the Coming of the Messiah

- **The Messiah: A Ruler of Peace**
- ⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government **shall be** upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the **increase of his government and of peace**
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Examples of Prophecy in Luke Chapter 1

- Gabriel (2x)
- Elizabeth
- Mary
- Zechariah

IV. Zechariah's Prophecy on the Arrival of the Messiah and the Way of Salvation

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for he **has visited** and **redeemed** his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of **salvation** for us
in the house of his servant David,
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IV. Zechariah's Prophecy on the Arrival of the Messiah and the Way of Salvation

- ⁷⁶ And you, child, **will be** called the **prophet of the Most High**; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to **give knowledge of salvation** to his people in **the forgiveness of their sins**,
⁷⁸ because of the tender **mercy** of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give **light** to those who sit in **darkness** and in **the shadow of death**, to guide our feet into the way of **peace**."

Jesus and John the Baptist

(John 1:1-8)

- **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was **John**. **7** He came as a witness, **to bear witness about the light**, that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. (John 1:1-8)

V. Takeaway: Do Not Quench the Spirit

- ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ **Do not quench the Spirit.** ²⁰ **Do not despise prophecies,** ²¹ **but test everything; hold fast what is good.**

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-21)

V. Takeaway: Do Not Quench the Spirit

Spiritual Goals & Caveats

- To have a willingness to receive elevated spiritual experiences without falling into simplistic emotionalism
- To keep our goal and focus on worshipping the Lord and keeping our eyes on Him rather than on ourselves or on our feelings
- To worship in an orderly fashion, reflecting the order with which God has created the universe: “Let everything be done decently and in order” (1Corinthians 14:40).

V. Takeaway: Do Not Quench the Spirit

Spiritual Goals

Simultaneously encouraging . . .

Spiritual Grounding

With . . .

Spiritual Flight

V. Takeaway: Do Not Quench the Spirit Solidify Spiritual Grounding

- Pray using written prayers
- Study the Bible
- Follow a systematic Bible reading plan
- Sing traditional hymns
- Recite historical Christian creeds (e.g. Apostles' and Nicene)

V. Takeaway: Do Not Quench the Spirit Encourage Spiritual Flight

- Pray using spontaneous prayer
- Being immersed in (“Letting Go Into”) Praise and Worship
- Being open to receiving the more “exotic” Gifts of the Spirit: Prophecy, Speaking in Tongues (“Prayer Language”), Healing, Spiritual Visions
- Note: Even if you are open to receiving these more exotic gifts of the Spirit that does not mean that the Lord will offer them to you; however, are you open to receiving them if the Lord so chooses to offer them to you?

V. Takeaway: Do Not Quench the Spirit

Spiritual Goals

- **Focus on the Lord:**
- Our focus must always be on worshipping the Lord and keeping our eyes on Him, not on ourselves and our gifts, feelings, and experiences.
- A Christian does NOT need any of the “exotic gifts” to be a strong and growing Christian.

The End of the Matter

- The Holy God, creator of the universe, has given the gift of His son, Jesus, for our salvation, which we celebrate at Christmastime: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)
- And God bestows gifts of the Spirit upon us to help build His kingdom, encourage believers, and strengthen His Church:
- “⁴ There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit Who gives them. ⁵ There are different kinds of work to be done for Him. But the work is for the same Lord. ⁶ There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people. ⁷ The Holy Spirit works in each person in one way or another for the good of all” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

The End of the Matter

- Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:1-2,6)



Let Us Pray:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”
(Luke 1:46-47)

