



# **GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE**

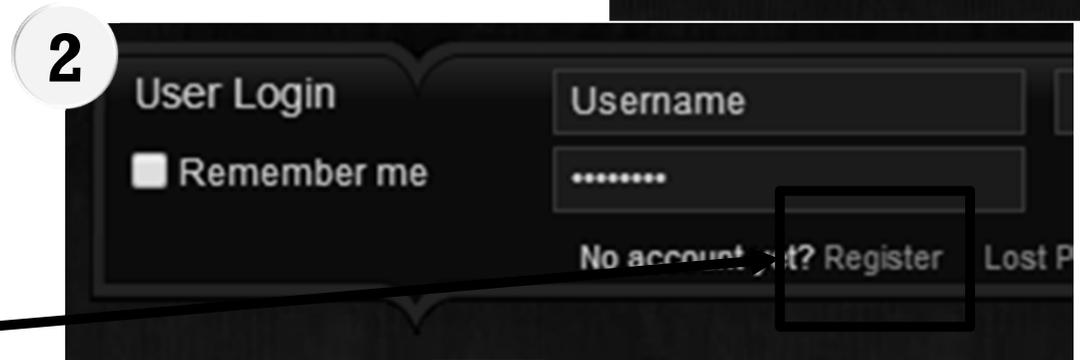
## **06 – Birth of John the Baptist**



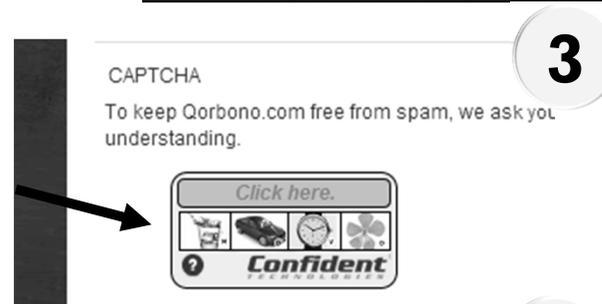


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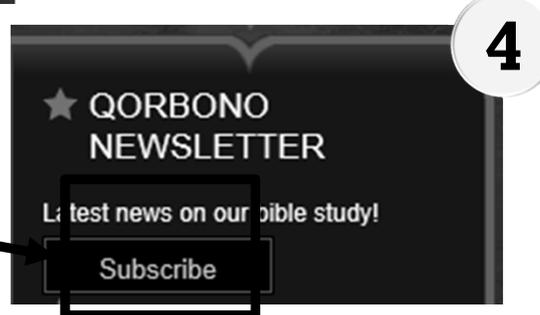
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## RECAP FROM LECTURE 05



1. Mary arose arrayed in battle. She has begun the salvific mission of her Son
2. Elizabeth venerates Mary as the Queen-Mother and the Mother of God and so must we
3. Mary's praise for God in her Magnificat is a model of personal prayer of petition and praise
4. The second part of the Magnificat is modeled after the mission of Joseph in Egypt and prefigures the salvific work of her Son.





## **PLAN OF THIS STUDY**

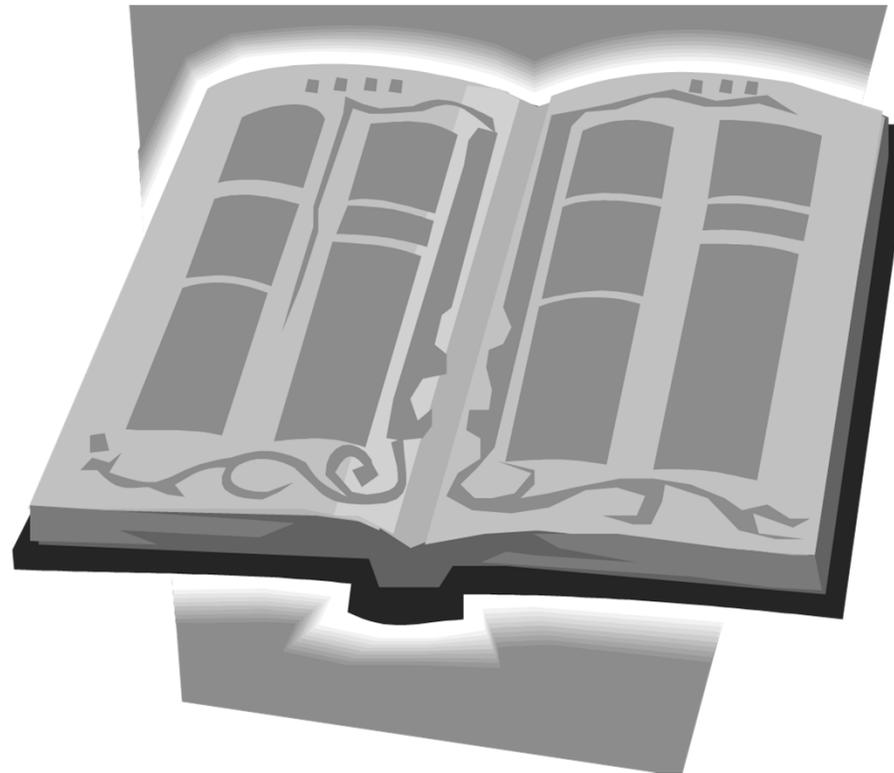


- 1. Reading of Luke 1:57-80**
- 2. John's circumcision, naming and manifestation**
- 3. Zachariah's hymn of praise**
- 4. Zachariah's prophetic words**





# OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO LUKE 1:57-80





## LUKE 1:57-63



57. Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son.
58. And her neighbors and kinsfolk 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 named him Zechari'ah after his father,
60. but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John."
61. And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name."
62. And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called.
63. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled.





## LUKE 1:64-70



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.
67. And his father Zechari'ah 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,



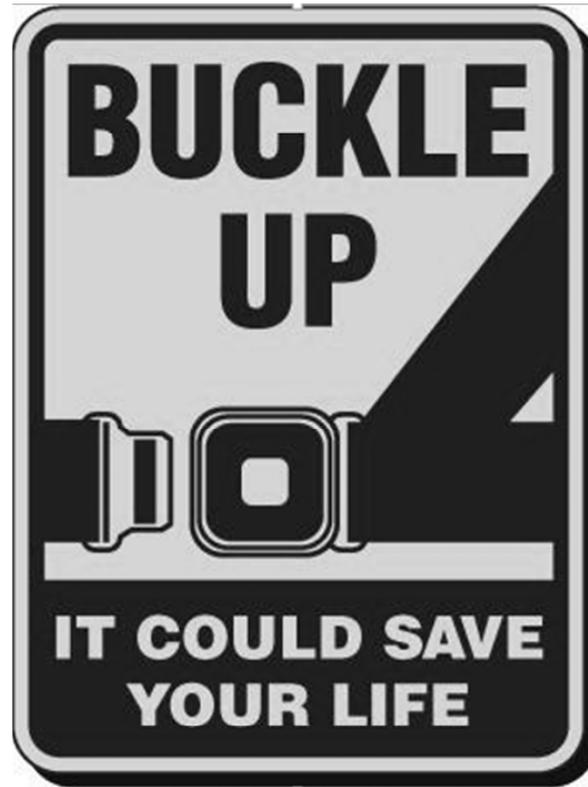


## LUKE 1:71-80



71. that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us;
72. to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant,
73. the oath which he swore to our father Abraham,
74. to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
75. in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.
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. through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon 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."
80. And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.







## LUKE 1:57-63



57. Now the **time came** for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son.
58. And her neighbors and kinsfolk 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 named him **Zechari'ah after his father,**
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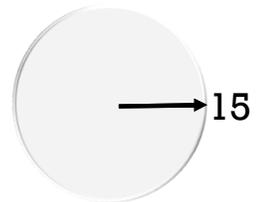


- **Time came:** Genesis 25:24 → Rebecca's giving birth to Jacob and Esau. Eplēsthē -- fulfillment
- **The Lord has shown great mercy:** how?
  - Removes the stigma of barrenness, a special burden for her as the wife of a Levitical priest.
  - Removes Zachariah's muteness
  - Many will rejoice (Luke 1:14)
- John: Yohanon – Yahweh has mercy (Yahweh is tender). A name from outside the Levite's priest family. A name is a mission. Names are important in God's eyes.
- Anyone acquainted with Jewish religious practice knows that a Jewish boy is named at his circumcision. But whence do we know of this custom? In a series of lectures over Israel Radio Army Professor David Flusser said: "From early Christian literature we can learn about Jewish customs not recorded in early Jewish sources. Take an example: the Jewish custom of giving a boy his name during circumcision ceremony is not known in our Talmudic literature, but in one of the Gospels (Luke 1:59-64) we are told that John the Baptist's father gave him his name during this ceremony." (Jewish sources in early Christianity, MOD books, P.O.B. 7103, Tel Aviv 61070, Israel, 1989, p. 10, condensed).





- Yochanan the Immerser: Relation to ritual purity. According to the *Torah* one had to be ritually pure before entering the Tabernacle or Temple. Ritual purity could be restored by washing. One of the sixth major division of the Talmud (Taharot, “Cleansing”) is devoted to this matter. Even though there is no longer a Temple, observant women immerse themselves in a *mikveh* (ritual bath) after each menstrual cycle, in obedience to Leviticus 15.





#	Verse	Reference
68	Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel	Pss. 41:14, 72:18, 106:48
68	For he has visited and redeemed his people	Ps, 111:9
69	And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David	Ps 18:3, 1 Sam 2:10
71	That we would be saved from our enemies	Ps 18:18
71	And from the hands of all who hate us	Ps 106:10
72	To show mercy to our fathers	Gen 24:12
72	And to remember his holy covenant	Pss 105:8, 106:45
73	the oath which he swore to our father Abraham	Gen 26:3
74	Might server him without fear	Josh 24:14
75	In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life	Isa 38:20
76	You will go before the Lord to prepare his way	Mal 3:1, Isa 40:3
79	To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death	PS 107:10, Ezekiel valley of the dead
79	To guide our feet into the way of peace	Isa 59:8

# BENEDICTUS





## LUKE 1:64-70



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.**
67. And his **father** Zechari'ah 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,





- Zachariah's first utterance is not to name his son.
- Why were the neighbors afraid and of what?
- How was the hand of the Lord with John?
- Why did Saint Luke write "His father Zachariah?" Why not, "His father," or "Zachariah"?
  - Prefiguration of the New Testament filling the Old Testament with the Spirit
  - See next two slides on the order of authority and order of love.
- Has visited and redeemed is a key exodus motif, but why is it stated in the past?
- What is the meaning of a horn? See Ps 18:3
- What is intended by "for us" and is John the Baptist "in the house of David?"
- Which holy prophets are intended here? All of them?





**CASTI CONNUBII  
(ON CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE)  
POPE PIUS XI, DECEMBER 31, 1930**



26. Domestic society being confirmed, therefore, by this bond of love, there should flourish in it that "order of love," as St. Augustine calls it. This order includes both the primacy of the husband with regard to the wife and children, the ready subjection of the wife and her willing obedience, which the Apostle commends in these words: "Let women be subject to their husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife, and Christ is the head of the Church." [29]





# CASTI CONNUBII (ON CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE) POPE PIUS XI, DECEMBER 31, 1930

27. This subjection, however, does not deny or take away the liberty which fully belongs to the woman both in view of her dignity as a human person, and in view of her most noble office as wife and mother and companion; nor does it bid her obey her husband's every request if not in harmony with right reason or with the dignity due to wife; nor, in fine, does it imply that the wife should be put on a level with those persons who in law are called minors, to whom it is not customary to allow free exercise of their rights on account of their lack of mature judgment, or of their ignorance of human affairs. But it forbids that exaggerated liberty which cares not for the good of the family; it forbids that in this body which is the family, the heart be separated from the head to the great detriment of the whole body and the proximate danger of ruin. **For if the man is the head, the woman is the heart, and as he occupies the chief place in ruling, so she may and ought to claim for herself the chief place in love.**





## LUKE 1:71-75



- 71.that we should be saved from **our enemies**, and  
from **the hand of all who hate us**;
- 72.to perform the **mercy** promised **to our fathers**,  
and to **remember his holy covenant**,
- 73.the oath which **he swore to our father Abraham**,
- 74.to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand  
of our enemies, **might serve him without fear**,
- 75.in **holiness** and **righteousness** before him all  
the days of our life.





- What is the difference between “our enemies” and “the hand of all who hate us”?
  - 1 Peter 1:10 “About which salvation the Prophets have inquired and diligently searched, who prophesied about the grace to come to you.” Also, Colossians 1:13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness”. → Liberation from demons (St. Bonaventure, Commentary on Saint Luke, p 122 Ed. Robert J. Karris, O.F.M, Franciscan Institute). Also, Rev 12:17.
  - The hand of all who hate us: Isaiah 19:20 “They shall cry to the Lord because of the oppressor, and he will send them a savior and a defender to deliver them” and Job 5:12 “He brings to naught the designs of the malicious so that their hands cannot accomplish what they had begun” See also M2 Maccabees 1:111 and Psalm 17:18 demons and human persecutors.
  - Exodus undertone: Freedom from the golden calf and false gods and freedom from Pharaoh.
- 73: Reminiscent of the Magnificat
- 74: Serve him without fear → Levitical liturgy.
- 75: Genesis 22:16-17:
  - 16 "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,
  - 17 I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies,
  - 18 and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."





## LUKE 1:76-80



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. through the **tender** mercy of our God, when **the day shall dawn upon 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."**
80. And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.





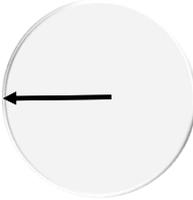
- 76: “You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways”
  - Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send my messenger to **prepare the way before me**, and the Lord whom you seek **will suddenly come to his temple**; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
  - Isaiah 40:3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness **prepare the way of the LORD**, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- Knowledge of Salvation:
  - Salvation in the Davidic Lineage
  - Fulfillment of the Scriptures (Back to Daniel) → Meaning of the word “Prophet”
  - Isaiah 5:13 “Therefore my people go into exile for want of knowledge;”
  - Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”





- **77 - Forgiveness of their sins:** which sins? Inadvertent sins or premeditated sins? (objective versus subjective nature of sin)
- 78. “the day shall dawn upon us from on high:”
  - From On high → From God See Luke 24:49
  - Dawn (anatolē) occurs three times in the Septuagint with the meaning “branch” → Netzer, so Jeremiah 23:5 “I will raise up for David a righteous branch” (also Zechariah 3:18, 6:12)
- 79. “To give light to those who sit in darkness”
  - The gentiles → 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 shined.” See also Isaiah 42:6-7
  - The Israelites → Micah 7 (Prophet to Kingdom of Israel)
  - The Priests → Deuteronomy 5:23 “And when you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness”, Psalms 18:12 “He made darkness his covering around him, his canopy thick clouds dark with water”
  - The role of Our Lady → Proverb 2
- 79. “The way of Peace” Isaiah 59 by way of Romans 3 confirming the above

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## PROVERB 2:1-9



1. My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,
2. making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
3. yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,
4. if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures;
5. then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
6. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
7. he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
8. guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his saints.
9. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;





## PROVERB 2:10-16



10. for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
11. discretion will watch over you; understanding will guard you;
12. delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech,
13. who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,
14. who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil;
15. men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.
16. You will be saved from the loose woman, from the adventuress with her smooth words,





## PROVERB 2:17-22



17. who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God;
18. for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the shades;
19. none who go to her come back nor do they regain the paths of life.
20. So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.
21. For the upright will inhabit the land, and men of integrity will remain in it;
22. but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.





## LET'S RECAP...



- The child is named John, a constant reminder of God's mercy and a name from outside a righteous Levitical family.
- Zachariah gives thanks for the conception of the Messiah and the saving grace He brings us all. He is Mary's second student
- Zachariah prophecy John's mission: to teach and instruct so as to make ready a people for God. The "people" need not be Jews only.
- John will live in the wilderness, a sign of spiritual growth





## FOR NEXT WEEK



- Read Luke 1:57-80
- Some points of meditation
  - What's in a name? How should we be naming our children?
  - “To deliver us from the hand of all those who hate us.” How does God deliver us today from the hand of all those who hate us?
  - “The child grew and became strong.” How are our children growing in strength?

