

## "THE BENEDICTUS"

(Luke 1:56-80)

We live in a world of broken promises. It seems that all sorts of commitments are made only to be broken when keeping them seems inconvenient. This happens nationally, as treaties made between nations collapse. It happens in families as marriages are shattered and children scattered. It happens in the workplace where promotions are promised but never seem to happen. It happens in friendship when disappointment occurs. Broken promises. Never forget, God is not like us. He can be trusted to always keep His Word. Always. How wonderful is this? Dr. Luke continues in his Gospel to interweave the birth stories of John and Jesus.

### THREE TRUTHS DISCOVERED ABOUT GOD AS WE LISTEN TO THE RECORD OF JOHN'S BIRTH. Each of these should prompt us to sing to our faithful God!

#### I. **God Always Keeps His Word. All Of His Promises Will Be Fulfilled. (vv.56-64)**

For God always says what He means, and means what He says. How unlike us...

- A. God had told through his angel Gabriel that Elizabeth would have a baby, even in her old age.
  1. So she did. (v.57) She was enabled to carry and deliver this promised child.
  2. Furthermore, she had a son, just as God had said. (1:13)
- B. This son would produce great joy and many would rejoice at his birth. (1:14) and this is exactly what happened. In a small village, a birth, especially this one was a community event. Joy and rejoicing filled the place.
- C. At John's circumcision, Zachariah received his voice back, just as had been told to him. (1:20) "until the day that this happens" Now the old priest was able to speak.
- D. On a larger scale, God had promised 400 years earlier that He would send one ahead to get the people ready for the coming of Messiah. (Malachi 3:1) "See, I will send my messenger..." The day finally came, God did not forget His promise, but sent John to be "the messenger."

#### II. **God Uses The Hard Experiences Of Suffering To Teach Us To Trust Him.(62f)**

For God often needs to discipline us. Though it is never pleasant, it usually produces good things in us.

- A. Zachariah, already a righteous man, learned now through discipline to trust God even more.
  1. God had told him what would happen, but he did not believe it. (1:18) "How can I be sure of this?" Again, he knew his biology, but failed in theology.
  2. Because of his unbelief, God discipline the old man. He caused him to suffer. He instantly became mute. (1:20) He probably could not hear or speak.
- B. After 9 months, at John's circumcision, he proved his faith in God's promise when he named his

