

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 7, 2014

This Week's Focus: Zechariah's song of blessing God for fulfilling His covenantal promises.

This Week's Text: Luke 1:67-79

God is a covenant-keeping, promise-keeping God. And the seal over every promise is the blood of the eternal covenant raising Jesus from the dead to guarantee every blessing in the heavenly places.

John Piper

*To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise. **Galatians 3:15-18***

Related Texts: 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 89; Genesis 15:9-17, 17:6-8; Matthew 1:1; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Luke 22:14-20

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- What is the implication of the timing of the return Zechariah's ability to speak?
 - What does this teach us about God and our own struggles?
- How does the bible use the word redemption?
- What is a covenant? Discuss and describe some of the covenants of God.
- What does the metaphor horn mean in describing our salvation?

- Read and discuss together the Davidic Covenant. Reference 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Psalm 89.
 - How does this covenant give God's people hope?
 - How would our lives and our relationships change if we walked in that hope?
- Read and discuss together the Abrahamic Covenant. Reference Genesis 12:1-3 and 6-7, 13:14-17, 15, 17:1-14, and 22:15-18. How does this tie in to God's promise in Genesis 3:15?
 - What is the significance of the smoking fire pot and the flaming torch? Reference Genesis 15:17-18, Deuteronomy 4:11-13, and Exodus 19:18-20.
 - How significant is it that only God makes the oath by passing through the pieces?
- Read and discuss the Old Testament promises concerning the New Covenant. Reference Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:25-27.
 - What does a new heart look and act like?
 - Share your personal testimony about your changed heart.
 - In what ways will this information play a role in your personal and communal transformation?
- Read Mark 14:22-25 and Luke 22:14-20. Discuss the fulfillment of the New Covenant.
- In the last part of Zechariah's song he contrasts light and darkness. What is God showing us?
 - Contrast the light we have received with the darkness Christ endured. Reference Mark 15:33-34 and Galatians 3:13.

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus Christ who is the gospel is the fulfillment of God's covenantal promise.
- Praise God for His faithfulness and unconditional love in the gospel.

Next Week's Text: Luke 2: 8-14