

JESUS, THE HORN OF SALVATION

Luke 1:57-80
Key verse 1:69

"He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David."

The Christmas story is the fulfillment of God's promises of the Old Testament. God promised those who fell into sin a saviour who would crush the head of Satan, the old serpent (Genesis 3:15) and who would come as a small child as a miracle counsellor, God hero, eternal father and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5). This saviour is Jesus Christ, whose birth is reported in the Gospels.

The Gospel of Luke begins with the priest couple Zacharias and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist. They both lived piously before God and were like a burning lamp of God in a spiritually dark time. God promised them a son who would lead and prepare the way for the Savior. Today we see that Zacharias and Elizabeth obeyed God in all things. Zacharias' mouth was opened and he praised God for Jesus, the horn of salvation and the rising Sun from above. Jesus is the horn of salvation that makes the lives of believers victorious and allows them to serve God without fear all their lives in holiness and righteousness before His eyes. I pray that God will help us to live victoriously with Jesus, the horn of salvation, and to bring this knowledge of salvation and the rising light from above to the people.

1. His name is John (57-66)

Let's look at verse 57: "When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son." Nine months after the angel's announcement, the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth was born. All neighbors and relatives rejoiced at God's mercy on this pious house church. After eight days they came to circumcise the child and name it after his father according to custom. But Elizabeth corrected them and said: "No, but he shall be called John". They won-

dered and asked Zacharias what he wanted him to call him. Let us read verse 63: "He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Zacharias clearly confirmed: His name is John. Immediately he could speak again and praised God. Verse 65 says that fear came upon all neighbors and this story became known throughout the mountains of Judea. Everyone wondered, "What will become of this child? For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zacharias' and Elizabeth's decision "His name is John" shows their obedience. God had instructed them through the angel to call the child John (1:13). The name was also associated with the mission as a forerunner of the Messiah. These two old people also obeyed God on this point. They didn't mind breaking with tradition and disappointing people's expectations. They lived blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord and also obeyed God in consecrating their only child to God as a man of mission and educating him accordingly. Their faith obedience brought fear of God to many people, and their faith story became widely known.

Here we see the great influence of a pious house church. They lived piously in all walks of life, even when they received the blessing of God. To live piously means to obey God in all areas.

The house church of missionary Dr. Peter and missionary Sarah Chang have not only served campus mission in Germany for 39 years, they also obeyed God in raising their children. They helped their sons, both of whom studied medicine, spiritually. One of them confessed that many doctors are not enough, but that Europe needs Bible teachers. The other broke off

a career opportunity in another city and returned to Bonn to work together for the work of God. The obedience of this house church brought fear of God to many students, youth and all who heard about it. God uses our mission work as a spectacular work of salvation for the young students on campus in Europe. What faith story of yours has become widely known? A young woman received the orientation to finish her studies in order to learn faith. She was already a mother and housewife and didn't have to do it. But she obeyed and wrote a faith history. Let us obey God and write faith history so that fear of God will again come upon this generation and be the hand of the Lord with our children and Bible students and this people.

2. A Horn of Salvation (67-75)

Let us look at verses 67 to 69: "His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." Zacharias praised God for what he had done by looking at Jesus. At that time Mary was pregnant with Jesus in the fourth month, but Zacharias already saw through the Holy Spirit what the birth of Jesus meant for his people.

First, God had visited his people and redeemed them. "Visited and redeemed" describes the one-sided, initiative love of God. God did not forget His people when they were far away from Him and could not come to Him. He visited his people in Jesus to reveal to them his redeeming love. With this love of God many lay missionaries from the Far East visited the young people in Germany and invited them to study the Bible. From a human point of view, they had to do many things, but they came to visit their sheep. Shepherd Jochen Schweitzer regularly visits the campus of the Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, like a father who drives a long distance to visit his children. He visits them to witness to them Jesus, who shed his blood for them on the cross and thus freed them from the bondage of sin, to use them as his holy people and his kingship of priests. I heard that Christians in Ghana in West Africa still remember gratefully the German missionaries who had visited them in the 19th century when they did

not know God. "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." Did anyone also visit you with the grace of redemption of Jesus? And who would you visit to tell them that Jesus redeemed them for a new life?

Secondly: God has established a horn of salvation. Verse 69 says: "He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." The horn of salvation in the house of David is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the horn of salvation. Here we get to know an important spiritual reality in the lives of believers. "Horn" in verse 69 in the means "power" (κέρας Keros), the same word used in Revelation to describe Satan's horns (Rev 12:3). The believers are constantly under attack throughout their lives by Satan, who wants to pierce them with his horn and fatally wound them. When someone is pierced by Satan's horn, he or she becomes like withered bones or boiled vegetables, lifeless, powerless and useless. So terrible is Satan's horn. But the believers are not defenceless, for God has established in Jesus a horn of salvation for them. Jesus, the horn of salvation, is much stronger than the horn of Satan.

Many young people do not live according to the Word of God, but according to feeling. That is why they are pierced by Satan's horn and become helpless. They become dependent and go astray like sheep without a shepherd. A young man grew up in a believing home. But at some point he thought that this life restricted him too much and sought freedom in pubs and the cheap recognition of people. Then he was pierced by Satan's horn. He became a man of indifference and despair. Through Bible study, Jesus said to him (John 5:6; Lk 5:10b), "Do you want to get well? Do not be afraid; I will make you a fisher of men". The power of salvation broke Satan's power and gave him many spiritual victories in following Jesus. The power of salvation changed him into a fisherman of men and a spiritual leader who leads the work of campus mission with a sense of responsibility.

Just in the time of the blessing Satan attacks and tries to plant arrogance. Saul was the first king of Israel. God visited him through Samuel, appointed him king and gave him a great victory (1 Samuel 11). But then he became arrogant, relativized God's orientation and sacrificed on his own authority against the command of God through the prophet Samuel. When he left the

spiritual order, Satan's horn pierced him. And when the women sang in the round dance, "Saul slain a thousand, but David ten thousand," he became full of envy and hatred. He lost his kingdom and found a miserable end. But David was persecuted by Saul for years. But he was not pierced by Satan's horn. He came to the Lord in prayer. 2 Sam 22:2-4 say, "He said: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior- from violent men you save me. I call to the Lord , who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies." The horn of salvation always gave him victory, and God used him as the man after the heart of God, who did the will of God.

Simon Peter was the lace disciple of Jesus. Jesus saw his faith and announced that he would build his church on him. But then Peter trusted in himself and said: "Even if they take all offence, I do not. I will lay down my life for you". When he trusted in himself, Satan's horn pierced him. He became so weak that he denied knowing Jesus at all in front of a little maid and some others. But then he remembered Jesus' word and repented. The power of salvation came into his heart. Jesus' vision came true: "I prayed for you that your faith would not cease. And when you convert one day, strengthen your brethren. Peter became the shepherd of the first Christians, stood courageously in all persecutions, and went victoriously ahead of the church by joyfully participating in Jesus' suffering.

Let us read verses 68 and 69: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David ". Jesus is the horn of salvation. Jesus gives us and all who are constantly threatened by the horn of Satan constant spiritual victories in the life of faith. Jesus, the horn of salvation, frees us from fear. Jesus, the horn of salvation, allows us to serve God all our lives in holiness and justice before His eyes.

3. The Rising Sun from Heaven (76-80)

Zacharias now speaks about the role of his own child in the history of salvation (76:77): "And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the

Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins," John's task was to give knowledge of salvation. The knowledge of salvation comes through the forgiveness of sins. That is why John preached the baptism of repentance. He admonished the people: "John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.", and to the publicans he said: "Demand no more than is prescribed unto you." By calling them to repentance, he gave them knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of their sins and taught them to serve God in holiness and righteousness before His eyes. The preaching of repentance is therefore the best preparation of Jesus.

Over the past two summers we have conducted the Global Leadership Empowerment Forum. The young people of the next generation intensively studied the five books of Moses. By studying the five books of Moses, they came to the realization of salvation that new life begins with the redemption from the slavery of sin. They learned that to live as God's people means to serve God all their lives in holiness and justice before His eyes. Some of them began to help their friends and fellow students spiritually to come to the knowledge of salvation through intensive Bible study and to learn faith obedience. God's servants and numerous parents and co-workers around the world are now preparing the Global Leadership Empowerment Forum 2020 to raise up leaders among the young people who will serve God all their lives and who will be able to give this generation at colleges in Europe, America, Asia, and Muslim countries knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of their sins and teach them a holy, ministering life according to the Word of God.

Selfishness is also widespread among Christians. For a long time I called myself a Christian, but until noon I lay paralyzed in the dark attic room on the bed and isolated myself from all people. My life was an uninterrupted defeat to the power of desire, selfishness and honor. Through Romans 13:13,14 Jesus, the power of salvation, came into my life: "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the

desires of the sinful nature." Through the example of my predecessors in faith, I learned to live with Jesus, the power of salvation, beginning with early morning prayer, Bible study and communion of words. I have often fallen and become like a weak vegetable, but Jesus is the horn of salvation. Jesus, the horn of salvation, changed my life of defeat into a life of victory. I may now serve Jesus, the horn of salvation, all my life in holiness and justice before His eyes and experience how the power of salvation changes the lives of the sheep and children and makes schools, colleges, the Juridicum and my working place the prayer house for all nations.

Zacharias' hymn of praise ends with the words: "because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." Jesus is the rising sun from above that appears to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death and leads them on the way of peace.

Today's text teaches us that God has established in Jesus a horn of salvation, so that we may lead our new life victoriously in Him and serve Him without fear throughout our lives in brightness and justice before His eyes. How do we serve God? Through daily prayer, communion of words, the building of one-to-one Bible study teams and collaboration for the mobilization of the next generation, so that young people may come to the knowledge of salvation and the rising sun from above may appear to them. May God give us daily victory through Jesus, the horn of salvation, and use us for spiritual renewal in Germany and Europe and for restoration as a shepherd nation and missionary sending continent.