

## Bible Study - The Horn of Salvation

(sermon on 18<sup>th</sup> December-22)

### Define Salvation:

*Dictionary definition: preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin or loss.*

*In Biblical terms: deliverance from sin and its consequences (death) by faith in Jesus Christ.*

### Read Psalm 18:1-6

1. According to the superscription of the Psalm, what's the context for David writing this Psalm?

*The context is that David (although anointed as the next King of Israel and not yet crowned) is on the run from the current King, King Saul, who has been constantly out to get him. Here, King David, writes about how God has delivered (saved) him from the hand of all those who are out to get him, particularly King Saul.*

2. List the adjectives David uses to describe the Lord:

*Strength; rock; fortress; deliverer; rock; refuge; shield; horn of salvation; stronghold.*

*All words describing the Lord's protection and safety from enemies.*

3. What problems did David face?

*He faces attacks from enemies and faces death!*

4. In what ways did the Lord help?

*The Lord saved David from his enemies (v3)*

*The Lord heard David's cries for help (v6)*

5. What comfort can you draw from these verses?

*a. All the descriptions of the Lord are about how he protects us and keeps us safe*

*b. He does save his people*

*c. He does hear and act*

### Read Luke 1:57-66

6. How is Elizabeth's birth of John received?

*When her neighbours and relatives heard how God had been merciful and granted Elizabeth a baby boy; they shared in her joy!*

7. What OT law do the parents obey in verse 59?

*According to Leviticus 12:3; on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, a baby boy is to be circumcised as a sign of being part of God's family. Elizabeth and Zechariah are obedient to this OT law*

8. What name is the child given? Why? Why was this name surprising to everyone?

*The name given is JOHN. Why? Because that was the name that was the name that angel Gabriel said the boy should be called in Luke 1:13. This name is surprising because no one in Zechariah's family with that name!*

9. What does the name, John, mean? How is that applicable?

*John means "God has been gracious" or "God is a gracious giver"*

*This is applicable because John will grow up to introduce people to God's grace - JESUS*

10. What miracle occurs in verse 64? Why? How does Zechariah respond?

*Miraculously Zechariah's mouth opened again after being silenced!*

*He responded by praising God!*

11. How do all the people react?

*The people were filled with awe and spoke about these things throughout the hill country of Judea*

12. What do people ponder in verse 66?

*They began to wonder what this child (John) might be, as the Lord's hand was with him. They seemed convinced John was destined for great things; and they were right.*

### **Read Luke 1:67-80**

13. What happens to Zechariah in verse 67 and why is that important?

*He was filled with the Holy Spirit which meant what he is about to prophesy (sing) are words from God Himself.*

14. Who is Zechariah singing about in verses 68 to 75?

*He is talking about Jesus*

15. How is Jesus described in verse 69? (cf. Psalm 18:2)

*He is described as a horn of salvation for us from the house of David.*

*Jesus is the promised Messiah and forever King promised to King David as the one who would come and be the one on David's throne forever.*

*The horn symbolizes God's power and strength – ultimately Jesus' power over sin and death.*

16. What will Jesus achieve in verses 68 to 75?

*He will redeem God's people – buy them back to God – it will cost Him His life!*

*He will give salvation from our enemies (sin and death)*

17. Who is Zechariah singing about in verses 76 to 80?

*Zechariah is singing about John.*

18. What is John's job and what will he achieve?

*A prophet who will go before the Lord and prepare the way for the Lord*

*He will give God's people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of sins*

*He will guide people's feet into the path of peace.*

19. How could you be like John the Baptist?

*By having the same job description as in Q18*

20. How do these passages apply to your life?

*a. Repent of our sins – so we come to know the salvation of our Lord Jesus*

- b. Then introduce others to Jesus – the Horn of Salvation – the Prince of Peace*
- c. Live in a right relationship with God – and as far as it depends on us – live at peace with everyone. O, what a world we would live in, if we all did that!*

**Finish in prayer:** Praising God for the prophet John (in the Spirit of Elijah) and the promised “Horn” of Salvation (our Lord Jesus).