

¹⁸ And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

¹⁹ And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

²¹ And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. ²² But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

²³ So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. ²⁴ Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people.”

⁵⁷ Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. ⁵⁸ When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. ⁶⁰ His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.”

⁶¹ But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” ⁶² So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled.

⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he spoke, praising God. ⁶⁵ Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ And all those who heard *them* kept *them* in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

This is a Prayer – From a man with a Broken heart – Over the Spiritual State of God’s People...His people:

⁶⁸ "Blessed *is* 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,
Who *have been* since the world began,
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 Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,
⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of
death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

His Praise to God...BROUGHT Fear to 'God's People' connected to this event:

- **(58)** they are rejoicing about the baby! (shower – fancy napkins)
- **But the minute Zacharias begins speaking – and it takes the plunge into the 'Spiritual Realm of things' – FEAR (Acts 5:5)**

What Causes FEAR of God... in a Nation that's IDENTITY is God? (Interesting)

What SHOULD Cause Fear... in a Nation that's IDENTITY 'was' God?

- This is the where Many Middle age – Most My age – Majority of Gen_ R

Apostasy – Dead FAITH (Knowing/Believing – NO Obedience) – Today's Spiritual STATE of Comfortable -Complacent – Compromise:

Now...While Each Child – Son – Daughter is responsible for their own decisions of Disobedience:

A NATION DOES NOT AND CANNOT Excuse It's Older Generations:

- IF they have NOT been faithful in teaching – instructing – discipling/parenting – serving with – and modelling a life of Seeking – Studying – Sharing their faith in obedience.

Deut. 6:4-9

- It does NOT say Hire a Pastor to do this for you...Lets invest in our Teens and sink a whole load of money and resources into ...A Youth Pastor to do this for us....

What Causes FEAR of God...in a People whose IDENTITY is God?

- Coming Face to Face – Generation to Generation – Reality to Reality...
- They – Families – Loved ones ARE NOT Prepared for the Coming of the Lord...

[Most of the time this takes place in 'end of life' conversations...where a Pastor quickly turns into a priest...(Call Pastor Mike...I want to make sure my life is in order -or be affirmed that their life was in order – there some Catholic Last rights in us ALL...) But that IS NOT how godly fear is supposed to work is it?!

God's People are to recognize ACCOUNTABILITY – CHASTISEMENT –

RECKONING (Not just for me...but for ALL –

OLD/OLD...Older...YOUNG/Young... We Do NOT obey God out of Fear...but

we certainly acknowledge as we READ our Bibles that it helps guide us in obedience.

What Causes FEAR of God...in a People whose IDENTITY is God? Being Spiritually Dead – and KNOWING that as much as they ignore – not talk/teach – laugh the spiritual condition of their NATION – homes – community – schools off...[We have been here before, this is just the way it is]...**There will be A Day...followed by a Time...followed by a Reckoning of where ALL are found before God.**

As Zacharias was Praying – I couldn't help but think of Daniel's Prayer:

What Causes FEAR of God...in a People whose IDENTITY is God?

- **The Faithful Remnant (Few)** – FEAR 4 the Coming Judgment
- **The Faces of Religion** – FEAR ramming J./'rippling the waters'/Feel good
 - They are the reason a Spiritual Nation lacks Spiritual Disc.
- **The Forces of Rejection** – That WILL face the WRATH/Consequences
 - A 'Nation of God' facing the wrath of God does NOT seem so...imaginary anymore:
 - When the measuring rod is stretched out...and the proverbial My mom used to take me to church -is no longer accepted (Declined)
 - Many – Many – Many will discover that the Fear of the LORD is a Good thing:

But do you KNOW what the Terrifying thing is this morning?...to All the Good Christian Folk that Faithfully attend and 'Do their Part' as I so often hear (or do What I can...it looks different for each of us):

Just because YOU Believe...Does NOT mean that You Escape the Apostacy:

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

- ¹⁵For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink.
- He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.
- ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.
- ¹⁷He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’
- and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
- **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**

¹⁸And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know (*ginosko*) this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

➤ **FAITH:** “Belief in Heard illuminated Word – Resolve to Trust & Obey

¹⁹And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. [Good News of a Child – Childs calling – ‘A Messenger of National ‘Salvation’ & reform.]

²⁰But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.” [Unbelief always has consequences]

²¹And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. ²²But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. [Daniel]

²³So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. [Silent Meditations in the House of God -2wk]

²⁴Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵“Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people.”

⁵⁷Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. ⁵⁸When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. [Miracle]

⁵⁹So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; [Jewish Parents Responsibility of Committing themselves to the Spiritual Development of this Child – and Committing the Family Unit to Following YHWH]

➤ **Deut. 6:4-9 – Does this Responsibility fall on the PRIEST – PASTOR or PARENT?**

and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. ⁶⁰His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.”

‘John’ - Hebrew name יְחֻזְכָּיָהוּ (*Yochanan*) meaning "**Yahweh** is gracious", from the roots י' (*yo*) referring to the Hebrew God and חָנָן (*chanan*) meaning "to be gracious".

⁶¹But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” ⁶²So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled. [Miracle Pregnancy – Vision in Temple – Sp. Name]

That word ‘marveled’ means NOTHING – without the “Spiritual Connection to the Spiritual Condition” of the People:

- **1:16-17 – “God’s People...The Spiritually Dead People –**
- **How Long does marveling over a situation last...if it does NOT spiritually touch you heart?**

How many times do you sing the song ‘What Child is this?’ before it becomes just about a child?

- The neighbours/relatives living in this culture of Dead Faith (regardless) **“Needed to do more than Marvel”** - ANY moving of God DEMANDS a Response

⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he spoke, praising God. [Praising God is ‘Key’ in Spiritually Dark Times 4 YOU & ‘Them’]

⁶⁵Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea.

⁶⁶And all those who heard *them* kept *them* in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him.

What was the Result...from a ‘People whose National IDENTITY is God’? FEAR

- 1. What ‘Kind of Praise...Causes Fear?’**
- 2. What Kind of Praise...Causes Fear in God’s People?**

Who were the 'all'? [Fearing – discussing – 'keeping these sayings in their hearts?']

φόβος **phōbōs**, *fof'-os*; from a prim. φέβομαι **phēbōmai** (to be put in fear); alarm or fright: [6x in Luke – 5x in Acts] **Luke 8:37; 21:25-28; Acts 5:5-11** -Power/Judg.]

- **The Faithful Remnant (Few)** – FEAR 4 the Coming Judgment
- **The Faces of Religion** – Like the Traditions – KNOW – No Obedience
 - **They are the reason** a Spiritual Nation loses Generations
 - **They are the Ones** – That have 'Lost their Marvel' when God Speaks
- **The Faces of Rejection** – That WILL face the WRATH/Consequences/Jud.
 - **They are the ones** – With NO Fear...b/c they observed NO Fear.

To the People of the Pew:

"We are NOT talking about the World -Without the Scriptures."

This FEAR was FROM the 'People of God'-NOT Obeying God

⁶⁷ Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

A 'Forthtelling': Even with a Broken heart Over the Spiritual Condition of God's People...His people: **There is STILL Messianic HOPE/LIGHT in THIS DARKNESS!!!**

- ⁶⁸ "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed His people, [As Good as Done]
⁶⁹ And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David, [Messianic King is coming- II Sam. 7]
⁷⁰ As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who *have been* since the world began, [Jude 14-15]
⁷¹ That we should be saved from our enemies
And from the hand of all who hate us, [Drawing/Gathering of NC]
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:** [Gen. 12; 15; 17; 22]
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.**
[Life with God NOW-> THEN (Messianic Kingdom Hope)]

BUT...Something HAD to take Place 1st – OBEDIENCE...OR...Judgment

- ⁷⁶ "And you, child (Jn B), will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people [From What?!]
By the remission (**Forgivenss**) of their sins,
⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the **Dayspring** [Messianic – Dan.9] from on high has visited us;
⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace." [Messianic Peace]