

JESUS BRINGS JOYFUL JUBILATION—PRAISE THE LORD (v.68a)

- **Luke 1:68a** “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,”
- **Indeed, as the heavenly Doctor Richard Sibbes said,** “The whole life of a Christian should be nothing but praises to God.”
- Advent must be about applause and adoration! Christmas must be about commendation and celebration! Considering the first coming of Jesus must be about Joyful Jubilee!

I) We must praise the Lord because **Christ has visited and redeemed His people** (v. 68b)

- **68b** “*for* he has visited and redeemed his people” Oh see the love that the Great Shepherd has for His sheep! He has visited and redeemed His people!
- **Psalm 56:8** “You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?” (**CHILDREN**, if you trust Jesus He collects your tears)
- Like high valued wine, Jesus bottles your tears & keeps them in His cellar. Like a well ordered bookkeeper, Jesus writes down all your harms so He can heal them.
- **Q.** Why? **A.** Because He loves you, saint. He has visited & Redeemed His people!

II) We must praise the Lord because **Christ is the horn of salvation for us** (v. 69a)

- **69a** “and has raised up (*God has elevated His Son*) a horn of salvation for us”
- **HENRY VENN (1796–1873):** “The horn of an animal is its weapon for defense and vengeance, its ornament and beauty too. It is used therefore in the prophetic style, to denote the power of the strongest empires. In the same sense we are to understand it here. By this image the exceeding greatness of the Redeemer’s strength, and the never-ceasing exertion of it in behalf of His church are signified.”
- Oh look and think on the strength of our Redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ—the Lord God has raised up a horn of salvation **FOR US!**
- **Ps. 18:2** “The Lord is my rock & my fortress & my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, & *the horn of my salvation*, my stronghold.”

III) We must praise the Lord because **Christ is the promised forever-king** (vv. 69b-70)

- **69b** “in the house of his servant David, **70** as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,”
- **Isaiah 9:6-7** “6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”
- **Psalm 2:4-6** “4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”
- In the midst of the battle against our indwelling sin & the raging of sinners, Christ christens us with comfort, douses us with delight, & perfumes us with pleasure.
- **Q.** How? **A.** By reminding us—even in the midst of hardship—He is on the throne & even mocks His enemies & the enemies of His people!
- **Sing Edward Perronet’s old hymn,** “All hail the power of Jesus’ name let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all!”

IV) We must praise the Lord because **Christ saves us from our enemies and all who hate us** (v. 71)

- **71** “that we should be saved from our enemies *and* from the hand of all who hate us;”
- **Q30. How does Christ execute the office of a king?**
A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.
- **Q.** Do you have those who hate you? It is a hurtful thing is it not?
- **Luke 21:17-19** “17 You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish.”
- Some kings only bark orders but our King bled. Some kings merely profit but our King pays. Some kings simply demand but our King defends.
- **CHILDREN**, there will be people in your life that will not like you if you trust & obey Jesus—but Jesus will like you. He will love you and so will His saints!

V) We must praise the Lord because **Christ shows promised mercy to tired saints** (v.72a)

- **72a** “to show the mercy promised to our fathers”
- Beloved, you cannot lose the promised mercy of God through your demerit any more than you can gain the mercy of God through your merit! It is mercy promised, not mercy earned! Mercy promised is mercy delivered. Mercy given will not become mercy taken away. *See! it is promised mercy!*
- **SAMUEL CRADOCK (1621-1706):** “Compare [your] mercies and afflictions together. Have not mercies flowed in upon [you] like a flood, whereas afflictions have fallen upon [you] but like drops? For one affliction, [you have had a] hundred mercies.”

VI) We must praise the Lord because **Christ seals the holy covenant by shedding His blood** (vv. 72b-73a)

- **72b** “*and* to remember his holy covenant, **73a** the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,”
- **Q24. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?**
A. God, out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, having chosen a people to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation, by a Redeemer.
- **Q. What is a covenant?** **A.** It is a holy agreement entered into by two parties.
- The LORD has long promised He will never break covenant with His people.
- **Jdgs2:1** “I [*The LORD*] brought you up from Egypt & brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘**I will never break my covenant with you.**’”
- But what hope is there if we cannot hold up our end of the bargain? **In steps the long-promised Lord Jesus Christ.** He visited us by becoming a man in order to remember His holy covenant, the oath that He swore—He sealed the New Covenant by the shedding of His blood.
- **This is why at the institution of the Lord’s Supper in Matthew 26:28, Jesus says,** “this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (**CHILDREN, THIS IS WHY WE TAKE THE LORD’S SUPPER**)
- Christ kept your end of the bargain, beloved! He remembers you, saint, and He will never forget! He swore an oath and He will never take it back! Abraham is your father if you have faith in God’s Son!
- Christ Jesus is like the great Atlas, bearing the full weight of the world—even your eternal redemption—on His shoulders. And he does not faint nor grow weary!

VII) We must praise the Lord because **Christ delivered us to worship Him without fear** (vv.73b-74)

- **73b** “to grant us **74** that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,”
- **The Lord Jesus Christ has delivered us from the ensnaring fear of man!**
- **Proverbs 29:25** “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.”
- **Christ has also delivered us from the enslaving fear of death!**
- **Hebrews 2:15** “[Jesus delivers] all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”
- **Like the Hebrews were freed from slavery in *Egypt* so saints are freed from slavery in *sin* in order to *GO OUT TO WORSHIP THE LORD WITHOUT FEAR!***
- **Oh, saints, remember Psalm 72:8-9 and sing with Solomon,** “8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! 9 May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!”

VIII) We must praise the Lord because Christ makes us holy & righteous before Him all our days (v.75)

- 75 “in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”
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IX) We must praise the Lord because Christ had prophets such as John prepare His ways (v.76)

- 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
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X) We must praise the Lord because Christ brings salvation to His people in forgiveness of their sins (v.77)

- 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
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XI) We must praise the Lord because Christ is the culmination of the tender mercy of our God (v.78a)

- 78a because of the tender mercy of our God,
- SIBBES: “There is more mercy in Christ than sin in you.”

XII) We must praise the Lord because Christ is the sunrise that has visited us from on high (v.78b)

- 78b “whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high”
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XIII) We must praise the Lord because Christ gives light to those who sit in darkness and death (v.79a)

- 79a to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
- Isaiah 6.

XIV) We must praise the Lord because Christ guides our feet into the way of peace (v.79b)

- 79b to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
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