sermon series

A MARCE

"Amazing Grace" Hymn published in 1779. Written by John Newton. He was a slave trader. "It Is Well With My Soul." Written on 22nd November 1873 by Horatio Gates Spafford, at the exact spot his four hristmas daughters perished.

"Joy to the World." 1719 Written by genius Isaac Watts. "He is only five feet tall, with a shallow face, hooked nose, prominent cheek bones, small eyes, and deathlike color....l admired the jewel but not the casket that contained it." Elizabeth Singer



Luke 1:68-79

Benedictus – Zechariah's Song "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of *old*, ...



"...that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve hristmas him without fear,...

"... in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,...



"... because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."



The Back Story: Luke 1:5-19

"And they were both righteous

before God, walking blamelessly in

all the commandments and statutes

of the Lord. But they had no child,

because Elizabeth was barren, and

both were advanced





Proverbs 13:12

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick..."

- Hope an expectation of good
- **Deferred** protracted, drawn
- out, delayed
- Sick worn down in strength,
- sick, to be pained, to

become wearied.



Luke 1:20 "And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."

Mark 4:24 "<u>Consider carefully</u> what you hear," ... "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more."

Mark 11:23

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says." World is voice ristmas activated!

Proverbs 18:21 (AMP) "Death and life are in <u>the power of</u> <u>the tongue</u>, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]."



Luke 1:21-25 "And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute ...

"... And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 'Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."



Luke 1:57-66

"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. His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John."



Zechariah - God has remembered. Elizabeth - God has promised. John - God has graciously given.

Put these all together: God has remembered His promise and graciously given.



Zechariah's Song

"...the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

That is the Good News of Christmas. God has personally

invaded all darkness Christmas



Austrian psychologist Carl Jung "Those psychiatrists who are not superficial have come to the conclusion that the vast neurotic misery of the world could be termed a neurosis of emptiness. DARKNESS Men cut themselves off from the root of their being, from God, and then life turns empty, inane, meaningless. ristmas without purpose."

Genesis 1:2-3

"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." "Light" - First Word God calls into manifestation.



Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7, 9

"The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; ... For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; ... Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, ... The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." ristmas



3 Observations: 1. Light Confronts Darkness Whether you want it to or not. 2. Light Equals Life No Light - No Life Jesus is light! 3. Light Doesn't Hesitate He never holds back. He rushes into every dark place.



John 8:12

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, '<u>I am the light of the</u> world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

All the darkness in the world cannot put out one candle flame.

Jesus is the light. It is Jesus or darkness.

The world was made for HIS light.

Everyone in the world needs His light

The whole world will be filled with HIS light.

John 12:36

"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

Matthew 5:14

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

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