

**Christmas Gossip: Did You Hear the One About...
The Mute Priest and the Miracle?
Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 (page 709)**

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The Setting (Luke 1:5-25)

- The *message*: God has a n s w e r e d y o u r prayer and the prayers of His p e o p l e (vs 11-17)
- *Zechariah's* response: That's i m p o s s i b l e! (v 18)
- The *result*: I'll give you some t i m e to t h i n k about it! (vs 19-20)
- The *people's* response: S p e c u l a t i o n and c u r i o s i t y (vs 21-22)

Nine Months (and Some *Silent Pondering*) Later (Luke 1:57-80)....

- *Zechariah's* response: o b e d i e n c e to God's command (vs 57-64)
- The *peoples'* response: A m a z e m e n t and G o s s i p (vs 65-66)
- *Zechariah's proclamation*: God has a n s w e r e d our prayers (vs 69-79)
 - God has set us f r e e from our e n e m i e s (vs 68-71)
 - √ He has v i s i t e d and r e d e e m e d us (v 68)
 - √ The Messiah is the sign of s t r e n g t h and the means of v i c t o r y (v 69)
 - √ "Horn of salvation" is not a m u s i c a l instrument, but refers to J e s u s (Ps 92:9-10; Micah 4:13; Ps 132:17; Ps 18:2; 2 Sam 22:3)
 - God is f a i t h f u l to His p r o m i s e s (vs 72-75)
 - God has given o n e to point to *the One* who will bring f o r g i v e n e s s and p e a c e (vs 76-79)

Dr. Luke's Remedies for Christmas...

- ❖ S i l e n c e is part of God's plan.
- ❖ Don't stop believing that God still c h a n g e s t h i n g s.
- ❖ Be looking for the w o n d r o u s, not simply the o b v i o u s.
- ❖ Christmas is a time for t e l l i n g and re-t e l l i n g the story of God's c o m i n g into our world because...we are l i v i n g in the days of s a l v a t i o n.