



The First Christmas Carols were (in order):

1. Mary's Song - called *The Magnificat* - Luke 1:48-55
2. Zechariah's Song - called *The Benedictus* - Luke 1:67-80
3. The Angels' Song - called *Gloria in Excelsis*—Luke 2:14
4. Simeon's Song - called *The Nunc Dimittis*— Luke 2:29-32

Zechariah's Song:

God had not spoken to His people for 400 years. Zechariah did not speak a word for nine months. But when God broke His silence, Zechariah revealed that the time is now, the Messiah is on His way and:

1. Salvation Is _____!

- The prisoners have been set _____.

*"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and **redeemed them**.* Luke 1:68

- The battle has been _____.

*He has raised up a **horn of salvation** for us in the house of his servant David.* Luke 1:69

- The debt has been _____.

*... to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the **forgiveness of their sins**.* Luke 1:77

2. An Ancient Promise Is Being _____.

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago) . . . ⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham: . . . ⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, Luke 1:70, 72-73, 76

I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.

Malachi 3:1a

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Luke 24:44

3. Lives Will Be _____

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days . . . ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

Luke 1:74-75; 78-79

Next steps for today's message:

- ☐ Memorize Luke 1:68, *Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.*
- ☐ Read Luke 1-2 this Christmas season.
- ☐ Thank God for the difference the coming of Jesus has made in your life.
- ☐ Bring your offering for World Missions to the altar at the conclusion of today's service.