

- Introduction:**
1. The song of Zechariah displays a wonderful transformation in his outlook...*Luke 1:18 cf. 2:67-79*
 2. Zechariah's son (John) would be the prophet of the most high...
 3. The prophets saw it from far off... *Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2 cf. Galatians 4:4*

I. A Horrible Picture of Man's Natural State...

A. Sitting in darkness...

B. Sitting in the shadow of death... *Romans 6:23a*

Observation: The picture is one of complete hopelessness and despair... *Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12...*

C. How this happened...

1. Not always this way... *Genesis 1 & 2*
2. Sin entered...

Observation:

1. No hope...
2. All humanity, apart from Christ, is covered by this awful spiritual darkness...

II. A Beautiful Picture of Gospel Light...

A. Compared to the brightness of the sun rising... *Malachi 4:2*

B. With Healing wings...

C. Fulfillment of the prophets words... *Isaiah 9:2*

Observation:

III. A Wonderful Message of Hope...A Savior Has Come...

A. Form on High...

1. He is God...
2. He has come to us... *Ephesians 2:4ff*

B. Consider the Certainty of this message...

1. The tender mercies of God...
2. To "bring" salvation...
3. To "guide" our feet...
4. In the way of "peace..." *Isaiah 48:22; 28:3; John 14:27; 16:33*

Gospel Application: