

The Benedictus in Luke 1:68-79

STRUCTURE:

As chiasm:

A: v. 68: “looked favorably” (literally, “visited,” Greek, *episkeptesthai*)

B: v. 69: “horn of salvation”

C: v. 70: holy prophets

D: v. 71: saved from the hand of enemies

E: vv. 72-73: shown mercy in remembrance of covenant and oath

D¹: v. 74: rescued from the hand of enemies

C¹: vv. 75-76: holiness/prophet

B¹: v. 77: knowledge of salvation

A¹: vv 78-79: “will break” (literally, “will visit,” Greek, *episkeptesthai*)

In two parts

1. **Benediction, vv. 68-75:** celebrating past deliverance by God.
2. **Prophecy, vv. 76-79:** telling “how” the deliverance will be brought to fruition.
 - a) *Through John*, vv. 76-77
 - b) *Through Jesus*, vv. 78-79

KEY WORDS

Savior/salvation (*soteria*): 1.69, 71, 77 (only 19.9, Zaccheus, elsewhere in Luke)

Enemies (*echthroi*); 1.71, 74 (cf. 19.43, Jerusalem to be surrounded by enemies)

Mercy (*eleos*); 1.72, 78 (recalling 1.50, 54; only 10.37, the Good Samaritan, elsewhere in Luke)

HEBREW SCRIPTURE ROOTS OF THE SALVATION BEING PROCLAIMED IN THE BENEDECTION

v. 69: In David (see 2 Sam 7:26: “Thus your name will be magnified forever in the saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel’; and the house of your servant David will be established before you.”)

v. 70: through the prophets of old

v. 71: like the Exodus (see Psalm 106:10: “So he saved them from the hand of the foe, and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.”)

v. 72-73: in memory of the covenant with “our fathers,” namely, “father Abraham” (Gen 12:2-3; see Psalm 105:8-9: “He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac”)

vv. 74-75: like the Israelites in the time of Joshua (see Josh 24.14: “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in righteousness...”) **and in Wisdom** (Wisdom 9:1-3: “O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy, who has made all things by thy word, and by thy wisdom has formed man, to have dominion over the creatures thou has made and rule the world in holiness and righteousness...”)

HEBREW SCRIPTURE ROOTS OF THE SALVATION BEING PROCLAIMED IN THE PROPHECY

v. 76: in Isaiah (40:3: “A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD’”)

v. 78: various images of “rising star,” “star,” or “branch” (Gk, *anatole*, here as “dawn”): Num 24.17, Isa 11.1, Zech 3.8

v. 79: in Isaiah (9:2b: “those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined.”; also, Ps 23.4: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me)