

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.”

– Micah 5:2, 740-700 B.C.

“The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”

– Isaiah 7:14, 740-690 B.C.

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!”

– Isaiah 9:6-7

“⁶⁸Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. ⁶⁹He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, ⁷⁰just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. ⁷¹Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. ⁷²He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant—⁷³the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. ⁷⁴We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live. ⁷⁶And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. ⁷⁷You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”

– Luke 1:68-79

*What would happen if we who are older and wiser and more experienced could **RELCAIM** some of the **ANTICIPATION** and **SURPRISE, EXCITEMENT** and **WONDER** of a **CHILD’S CHRISTMAS**?*

Zechariah helps us

- **REMEMBER** what God has done [vv. 69-73]
- **CELEBRATE** what God is doing [vv. 73-75]
- **BELIEVE** what God will do [vv. 76-79]

Our God specializes in

- **RENEWING** our joy
- **REVIVING** our hope
- **RESTORING** our perspective

Building #ANTICIPATION this Christmas

1. Open your EYES

- Look at Christmas with **FRESH** eyes
- Look for **SERENDIPITOUS** joy

2. Watch for SIGNS

- Don’t rule out the **MIRACULOUS** and **STARTLING**
- Don’t rule out the **WONDER** and the **UNEXPECTED**

3. Bare and Prepare Your HEART

- Allow your anticipation and preparation to **RESTORE** Jesus to the center of your Christmas
- Prepare to be **SURPRISED**
- Don’t let Jesus get **LOST** in your Christmas