

**January 6**  
*The Sun is Rising*

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But to you who fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in its wings. – Malachi 4:2

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[Luke 1:1-17] Now the time that Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she brought forth a son. Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had magnified his mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her. It happened on the eighth day that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him Zacharias, after the name of the father. His mother answered, "Not so; but he will be called John."

They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." They made signs to his father, what he would have him called.

He asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John."

They all marveled. His mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue freed, and he spoke, blessing God. Fear came on all who lived around them, and all these sayings were talked about throughout all the hill country of Judea. All who heard them laid them up in their heart, saying, "What then will this child be?" The hand of the Lord was with him. His father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying,

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

for he has visited and worked redemption for his people;

*Because of the tender mercy  
of our God...the dawn from  
on high will visit us*

and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

(as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets who have been from of old),

salvation 'from our enemies', and 'from the hand of all who hate us' [Psalm 103:10];  
to show mercy towards our fathers, to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he spoke to Abraham, our father,

to grant to us that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, should serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go 'before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways' [Malachi 3:1], to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dawn from on high will visit us,

'to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death' [Isaiah 9:2];  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child was growing, and becoming strong in spirit, and was in the desert until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

1. Describe this circumcision party. What was the climax? What did Zacharias know?
  
2. From which enemies did Jesus save us? Was this what Zacharias described?
  
3. Jesus, thank you for remitting—pardoning—my sin so I can know the salvation from...

