

Old Testament Background in *The Benedictus* (Luke 1:68-79)

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

Psalm 41:14(13); 72:18; 106:48 (Ending of three books of the psalter)

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel . . .

1 Kgs 1:48 (David, after Solomon's enthronization)

And the king also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it."

Psalm 111:9

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

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

Judges 3:9a

But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them,

Psalm 132:16–17

Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy. There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.

Ezekiel 29:21

On that day I will cause a horn to spring up for the house of Israel, and I will open your lips among them. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:10 (Hannah's hymn)

The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.

Psalm 18:2

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

Deuteronomy 18:18

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Jeremiah 1:9

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

2 Chronicles 36:22

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing

71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us

Isaiah 49:6 (to the Servant of the Lord)

he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Psalms 106:10 (in reference to "our fathers" in Egypt)

So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.

Psalms 18:17

He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

72-33 to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

(see also Genesis 13:14–17; 15:4–21; 17:4–16; 22:15–18)

Micah 7:20

You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Exodus 2:24

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

(see also Leviticus 26:42)

Psalms 106:45

For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Genesis 26:3 (God to Isaac, giving him Canaan)

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.

Psalms 105:8–9

He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac

Jeremiah 11:5

(T)hat I may confirm the oath that I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day." Then I answered, "So be it, LORD."

Psalms 89:3

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:"

74-75 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Psalms 18:17

He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

Psalms 110:1-2

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Joshua 24:14

Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

1 Kings 9:4–5 (God to Solomon)

And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Isaiah 38:20

The LORD will save me, and we will play my music on stringed instruments all the days of our lives, at the house of the LORD

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

Psalms 18:13

The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Most High uttered his voice, hailstones and coals of fire.

Malachi 3:1

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 40:3

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,

Jeremiah 31:34

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Malachi 4:2

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Numbers 24:17

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Isaiah 42:6–7 (to the Servant of the Lord)

I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Psalms 107:9-10

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons,

Isaiah 59:8

The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.

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