

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



December 10, 2023

“**Benedictus**” - #2 in the series *Heaven and Nature Sing*

Texts (NLT): Luke 1: 67-79, Jeremiah 29:11

1. What stood out to you about the message?

2. This week’s text contains *The Benedictus*, a song offered by Zechariah that describes a prophetic destiny he believes God has chosen for his infant son, who would become known as John the Baptist.
 - Have you ever experienced a sense of destiny - something you believe you were meant to do?
 - What did you learn about yourself and others as a result of your experience with destiny?

3. **Read Luke 1:67-71.**
Consider the examples of God’s relationship to Israel in this portion of Zechariah’s song.
 - How do these verses help us think about the idea that God has a universal plan and purpose?
 - In what ways does understanding God’s universal plan help us accept that he also has an individual plan for us?

4. **Read Luke 1:76-79.**
 - What can we learn from these verses about a prophetic kind of destiny vs. one that comes from someone’s desire to control the destiny of another? (Consider the excerpt from *The Dead Poets’ Society* movie in which Neil’s father has his son’s destiny mapped out for him.)

5. **Read Jeremiah 29:11.**
 - In what ways does this verse affirm your thinking about your own destiny?
 - How can we demonstrate our belief in the idea of God’s universal and personal plan for us through the ministries of Hope?

6. How can we pray for you?