

1 When have you ever had an account of the things that have been hidden away in you, or they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and narrators of the fact? With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I am decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

In the course of handing you of such things as a friend named Zachariah, who belongs to the family of Abraham, I had with me Elizabeth who also is a descendant of Aaron. Both of these were righteous in the sight of God,

and their lives were blameless.

Now when I had finished things in order, it would be wrong to speak before God, but we thought to be the witnesses if the course of the procedure, to go into the temple of the Lord and have someone. And when that time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying devoutly.

Then in the sight of the Lord appeared a light, standing at the right side of the altar of the Lord.

When Zachariah saw this, he was startled and he said, "What is this? I see a light and I am afraid." But he said nothing, and the people who were gathered all kept their eyes on him.

At that time many got together and talked to him, for he was silent for the space of the Lord. He is known to us as the other ceremonial cult, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. To tell more back about the people of Israel in the Lord since God had his will on him before the Lord, in the spirit and power of the Holy Spirit, the words of the promise to their children and the abundance in the vision of the righteous. It is made that a people prepared for the Lord.

Zachariah asked the angel, "How can it be that I am silent? I am an old man and my wife will be long in years?"

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day happens because you did not believe my words, which will come true at this appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They remained but had seen a light in the temple, so he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. The Lord has done this for you, as he said, "If there can be a sign to show his love and faith every my message among the people."

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Zachariah, a cousin of the prophet Isaiah, to announce to him that he was to have a son. The angel was to tell Zachariah that he was to have a son, and that his name was to be John. Zachariah was to be silent for the space of the Lord.

When Zachariah was told this, he was troubled and wondered what kind of greeting this might be for the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and your name will be John. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Holy Spirit. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign forever on the throne of his kingdom. His name will be John."

How will this be, I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day happens because you did not believe my words, which will come true at this appointed time."

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summarized, for we know from God's will that we are to be saved by his grace. Mary answered, "How you want to be fulfilled. Then the angel left her."

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Luke

2:1-21

The Birth of Jesus

Our Three Questions

1. What does it say?

- Authorial intent to intended audience

2. What does it mean?

- Timeless theological truth

3. How does it apply?

- Landing it in our lives

Luke 2:1-21

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Luke 2:1-21

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:1-21

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-21

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

Luke 2:1-21

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:1-21

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Luke 2:1-21

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Luke 2:1-21

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Luke 2:1-21

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Luke 2:1-21

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

What is true humility?

What is truly glorious?

Luke 2:1-3

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Luke 2:1-3

This is a real time in history.

**... This is the birth of a real
person, not a legend or a myth**

Luke 2:4-5

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:4-5

These are real people.

**... This is the birth of a real
person, not a legend or a myth**

Micah 5:2

**But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the
clans of Judah, from you shall come
forth for me one who is to be ruler in
Israel, whose coming forth is from of
old, from ancient days.**

Luke 2:1-5

The Lord moves Caesar to get Mary to Bethlehem, fulfilling Micah's prophecy.

Luke 2:6-7

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

Luke 2:8-14

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:8-14

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Luke 2:8-14

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

- The encounter
- The message









Angelic Message

- Don't fear
- I bring "good news" of great joy
- For all the people
- Someone was born in David's city
 - Savior, who is Christ the Lord

Angelic Message

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

- God gets glory**
- People get peace**

Angelic Message

5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

...

8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Angelic Message

⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Luke 2:15-21

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

Luke 2:15-21

¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

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18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:15-21

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

What Do We Learn?

God's humility

What is truly glorious

Application

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Application

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Application

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Application

Humility

Jesus forgoes what He deserves, to treat us better than we deserve.

He participates with us in the mess we made.

Application

Celebrate what is worth celebrating

Share what you have received

Questions

Did anything jump out at you from the text or the message?

When you re-read Luke 2:1-21, does anything change about the way you read the narrative? Is it odd to you that the Lord would choose to be born in a manger?

God is sometimes critiqued for being a megalomaniac (making too much of Himself). How would you respond to such a critique, after reading the birth narrative?

Do you find, in your own life, that you are frustrated when you get less than you think you deserve? Do you ever choose to get less than you deserve?

Heaven glorifies God for His humility. When you look internally, what do you find yourself naturally celebrating? Does it fit with the value structure of Heaven or a different value structure?