

1 When have you ever seen a man who has been handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word? With this in mind, since it would have been virtually impossible everything from the beginning, I 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 month of Ephesus, I had there a priest named Zachariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abiathar. His wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Law's commands and duties blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both pious.

Once when Zachariah finished his duty and was about to speak to the priest, he was struck by the power of the Holy Spirit and fell silent. He was troubled by the possibility of the content of the prayer, so he gave the temple of the Lord and then returned. And while he was standing at the right side of the altar, the usual worshipers were praying vocally.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar, and said to Zachariah, "Do not be afraid, Zachariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight

to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is now in your wife as either formal child, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. You will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord. His name will be John, for you are truly named 'The Lord with us'."

When he heard this, Zachariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the child to be born will be called 'The Lord with us.'"

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 realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he stopped home. After this, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his love and faith every day through the power of the Lord."

When the Lord's servant, Mary, announced, "My time would be to be fulfilled. This is the angel's lot."

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zachariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? How is it possible for me to have my greeting? When I saw you, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promise to her!"

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zachariah, but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

Then they made signs to his father to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's amazement he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors who heard him were, and throughout the hill country of Judea, people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this began to ask, "What has this child come to be?" for the Lord had done with him.

His father Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets for a long time):

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had done for her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

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— THAT YOU MAY HAVE CERTAINITY —

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Luke

1:1-4

- **An Introduction**

Luke 1:1-4

**¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us,
² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,**

Luke 1:1-4

³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Preview

- Author, audience, and date
- What is Luke?
- Purpose
- What do we learn
- Application

Author: Luke

**Missionary, physician, historian,
faithful friend, gentile**

- Colossians 4:14 – Luke the beloved physician greets you ...
- 2 Timothy 4:11 – Luke alone is with me
- Philemon 23-24 – Luke is in the greeting

Audience: Theophilus

Friend of God or loved by God

Most likely a gentile ruler/leader

- Luke 1:3 – “most excellent”
- Acts 24:2 – “most excellent Felix”
- Acts 26:25 – “most excellent Festus”

Date: Early 60s

We don't have an exact date

Luke is the first of a two part set

Luke/Acts

Paul is alive at the end of Acts

Paul dies in the mid-late 60s

What is Luke?

1-3 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us.

What is Luke?

1-3 It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely from some time past, to write an orderly account for you...

What is Luke?

Luke interviewed eyewitnesses

This activity took a long time

Now, Luke is “compiling a narrative of the things that have been accomplished ...” in an “orderly account”

Why Luke?

Luke was not Jewish

Luke was not an Apostle

Luke was not an eyewitness

...

So, why is Luke/Acts in Scripture?



Luke's Purpose

3-4 It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

John 20:30-31

Luke's Purpose

Luke 1:1 - Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us

Acts 1:1-2 - In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach...

What do we learn?

We learn about Luke

- A trusted collection of first-hand accounts of Jesus

We learn from Luke

- He focuses on what Jesus accomplished
- He aims to convince his audience

Application

For those wrestling with doubt

- **Read the book of Luke**

In our evangelism

- **Talk about what Jesus accomplished**
- **The aim is convincing people**

Questions

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

Do you presently or have you ever struggled with trusting the Bible? How is that going? How did that go?

Do you have confidence in any historical events that you didn't personally see or live through? If so, how did you come to such confidence? Is the event more or less credible than what you have about Jesus?

When you consider modern news, do you find it difficult to know what to believe? What helps you believe in modern stories and their validity?

What do you think about the notion of convincing others of what you believe? Does it feel less than righteous? Is this true for all truths or for certain truths? How do we decide which truths are worth contending for and which aren't?