

The Great Physician

Luke 1:1-25

- The book of Luke is the third entry of the four part section known as the gospels at the very beginning of the New Testament, and although Mathew and Mark had already been written Luke gives us another look at the life and ministry of Jesus that is unique from them all. While Mathew portrayed “**Jesus as King**” and Mark as “**A Servant**” Luke being a doctor and thus used to providing detailed reports, comes from the perspective of seeing “**Jesus in His humanity**” and thus portrays Him as “**The God Man**” fully God and fully man but without the sin nature.

V1-25

- What makes the book of Luke unique is not just that the writer was a Physician but also unlike the other writers of the New Testament he was the only one who most believe was not Jewish but a Gentile. So it makes it impossible for critics to say well everything is scripture was written from a certain perspective, therefore its views couldn't help but to be biased. Luke wasn't raised Jewish or brought up in the Synagogues but in a traditional non Jewish environment and yet came to the same conclusions as everyone else > that “**Jesus is Lord**”
- **V1-4** when Luke wrote this it had been **30yrs** since Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, so many had already written various accounts of the life of Jesus. Also because of the disciples and many who were eyewitnesses of what Jesus said and did had passed on stories that now were common knowledge among those living in and around Jerusalem, so much of what Luke is going to say is common knowledge and yet its as if their hearing it for the first time.
- **V2 “us”** in using this sword Luke puts himself in the community of Christians who believe and received the accounts of Jesus life, and we know from other writers that Luke was a companion of Paul “**Acts 16:10-11, 2Tim 4:11**, which caused Paul to call him “**the beloved Physician**”, in **Col 4:14**. In **V3-4** Luke gives his reasoning for writing this account, he wanted after diligent research and a mature understanding of events to write “**an orderly account**”. Meaning a more comprehensive detailed version of the life, ministry, and message of Jesus, and its impact on the entire world, that's from His birth all the way to and even past the crucifixion.
- As Luke also wrote “**the Book of Acts**” often traveling with the Apostle Paul thus making him the very first medical missionary that we know of. Luke is writing to a man named “**Theophilus**” which means (lover of God), not much is known about him save he is believed to have been a Roman official who came to trust in Christ and now needed to be established in the faith, as he has already been instructed in certain truths about Christ, now he needs to be rooted in Christ.
- **V5-7** Luke starts at the beginning before Jesus was born and what the spiritual times looked like as God prepared the world for the entrance of His Son into the world as a baby. In the days of Herod, these were dark days for the nation of Israel, it had not heard a prophetic word in **400yrs**, not since Malachi had promised the coming of Elijah in **Mal 4:5-6**, so the priests during this time was teaching the people that when God comes it will be in judgment not in mercy.

- Luke's account is the only one that includes Zacharias and Elizabeth who of course was Mary's cousin. This comes from his examining and investigating of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, he used the Greek word "**autoptes**" where we get the English word "**autopsy**" which means to examine thoroughly, Luke wanted his readers to have confidence that what they had heard and even read was in fact true and so they could put their trust and hope in its message.
- We're told that both Zacharias and Elizabeth had come from the line of Aaron, that was important as the Jews had gone back to the day of David where the priests had been divided into **24** divisions with each division serving twice a year in order to share the load of ministry. I like that as **1Pet 2:9** calls us a royal priesthood, so we also should be involved in God's work sharing the load of ministry as well. Luke tells us that both Zacharias and Elizabeth were faithful to obey both God's Word and to fulfill their ministry, their only sorrow was they had no family.
- **V8-11** when it was Zacharias family time to serve they drew lots to see who'd go inside the temple and light the incense for the morning sacrifice, and after the evening sacrifice. This was a great honor and permitted to a priest only once a lifetime, and as is often the case while he's doing his daily tasks the Lord speaks to him, folks its while were busy doing what God calls us in or daily lives that we can expect the Lord to speak to us. We saw that with Moses and David caring for the sheep, Gideon threshing wheat, Peter mending his nets, before Jesus calls him.
- **V12-17** once Zacharias saw the Angel he became fearful but the Angel says not to be afraid, as his prayer has been heard for Elizabeth will have a son, and they should name him "**John**" and they will be joyful and glad along with many at his birth. This is the first word from God to man in **400 yrs**, "**Don't be afraid**" and afterward he gives them some great news, as they'd been praying for many years for Luke says they were well stricken in age. What's interesting about this is in the culture that they lived in it was considered a curse for a woman not to bear a child and was legal grounds for divorce, so this goes back to what Luke said about them being Righteous before God, Walking in obedience by keeping His commandments, and blameless.
- He is also told that John would be great in the sight of the Lord and that he should not consume anything that messes with his senses as he will be filled with the Spirit of God, what that means is Zacharias and Elizabeth had a responsibility to raise this child in such a way that he is usable by the Lord, for God had a plan for his life that would help many come into a right knowledge of Him. This shows our children and their lives was never simply meant to bring us joy, that just selfish on parents parts, they are meant to be a blessing to others and for that to happen they must be brought up in such a way that it blesses and honors the Lord.
- **V18-20** Zacharias is a Godly man but that doesn't mean he is without fault, His name means "**Jehovah remembers**" and his wife's name means "**the oath of God**" but Zacharias doesn't remember that God is not holden to the laws of man both intellectually or physically, you see Zacharias is thankful for the promise of a son but he's thinking about the condition of his wife and himself being old and barren all these yrs, so he asks can you prove it?

- Gabriel reminds Zacharias of who he is and where he has come from, and he tells him how he has come to bring you good news and you receive it with doubt. So he starts out by shutting Zacharias mouth for the entire pregnancy, how about that as proof! Zacharias was a faithful husband and a faithful priest but an unfaithful promise believer, you can do your duty without actually believing God at His Word and the Lord wanted to change that in Zacharias so He did.
- **V21-25** the custom was as soon as the priest lit the incense and prayed to come out but Zacharias was in their way longer than was common and finally when he appeared they could tell something happened in there. Zacharias couldn't verbally tell them what he saw and gesturing with his hands he did his best to describe what happened to him, all he could do was wait and see the Lord fulfill His promise to him and his wife. The Lord is faithful whether we are or not and I'd much rather enjoy watching what the Lord is doing rather than be silenced as He's doing it, all Zacharias could do as his wife tells him she's pregnant is nod in agreement.