



For the Lover of God
A DEEP DIVE INTO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE.

WEEK 3

CLASS BY PASTOR GLYN NORMAN

Going through the Text:

1. The preface

- took the style of introductions to other historical works of the period
- ancient historiography
- preface functions as book-jacket blurb, table of contents and title page (Green, 17)
- he will tell us what happened and why it is significant
- a purpose of presenting the information and calling forward a response
- get with the plan of God, and become part of it (be redeemed and redeem others)

2. The prophecy of John's birth

- historical markers "in the time of..."
- the cultural significance of barrenness (see 1:25)
- the nature of angels (don't forget this is supernatural and reveals the presence of God in the background)
- the bells and ropes on the robes of the priest
- a question of doubt and faith

3. The prophecy of Jesus' birth

- Mary's faith (a different type of question? How rather than if?) & simple obedience
- the move of God in two wombs (1:39-45)
- Mary the revolutionary
- *Mary's Song (adapted with a more relevant contemporary power structure)*

46 And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me--

holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

52 He has brought down professors from their thrones
but has lifted up the students.

53 He has filled the starving students with good things
but has sent the rich administrators away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
even as he said to our fathers."

4. The presentation of Jesus at the Temple

- part of God's bigger plan (Simeon/Anna)
- redemption of Jerusalem

5. A Brief Childhood Account

- notice how balanced (2:40)

6. Oops, we lost the Savior of the World (a.k.a. The Passover Visit of Jesus to the Temple)

- bad parenting? (the pressure of raising the Son of God)
- Jesus' self-awareness?

7. John the Baptist – a Warm-Up Act or something more?

- messianic hopes and patterns, Elijah the Comeback?
- political background & significant crowds in wilderness areas
- why is Israel in the state it's in? Sin? Rebellion? Simply politics and power?
- Christian baptism or another water rite?
- is Israel lost too? In need of repentance? Radical message.
- eschatological message and ministry – repentance to avoid wrath
- did John see Jesus as the coming one? Doubt. (Lk 7:19) Where's the judgment?
- message
 - eschatological warnings
 - exhortations to right conduct
 - repentance is necessary, not relying upon religious/racial heritage
 - the gathering of the righteous
- highly viewed by Jesus
- murdered by Herod Antipas
- his own disciples continued on
- part of God's continued plan of salvation

Homework: Read more on The Gospel of Luke, in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (DJG), 500-502