

# Luke 1 Pt 1

Jesus

## Introduction

**Author:** Doctor Luke

- **Writer** One of four writers of four Gospels. Also Book of Acts
- **Gentile** Unlike Matthew/John...Luke was not a Jew/not an Apostle. Greek Gentile believer
- **Physician** Beloved Physician of Col. 4:14
- **Intellectual** As was Apostle Paul [not many wise called... these two were]

### Luke joined Paul on his 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey

- **Acts 1-15** Written in Third person **They.** Luke Joins Paul ...
- **Acts 16-28** Written in First person **We...**

**Acts 16:10** [e.g.] ... immediately **we sought** to go to Macedonia

- Traveled w/Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journeys to Europe as his Scribe seen in Acts
- **Faithful to his friend Paul even after many forsook him...**

**2 Timothy 4:11** [End of Paul's life] **Only Luke is with me.**

- **Gospel:** Historical narrative covering time of Jesus earthly ministry
- **God used Alexander the Great to spread the Word of God...**
  1. **Alexander:** Brought Greek language/culture to lands he conquered which...
  2. **Paved the way for the NT**, written in Greek to **go throughout the known world**

[Re. Gospel of Luke] There are more wide-reaching references to institutions, customs, geography, and history of that period than are found in any of the other [3] Gospels. [JV McGee]

- **4 Gospels in NT...**
  1. **Narrative describing the Good News of Jesus:** Salvation by Grace alone though Faith alone
  2. Each Gospel has a different **Emphasis/Audience:**

**Revelation 4:6** [Read] Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a **lion**, the second living creature like a **calf**, the third living creature had a face like a **man**, and the fourth living creature was like a **flying eagle**. Different aspect of Jesus]

- |                   |                      |                              |               |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>Matthew</b> | Face of a Lion       | Jesus the Messiah/King       | Jews          |
| 2. <b>Mark</b>    | Face of a Calf       | Jesus the Servant            | Romans        |
| 3. <b>John</b>    | Face of an Eagle     | Jesus the Almighty God       | Universal     |
| 4. <b>Luke</b>    | <b>Face of a Man</b> | <b>Jesus the Perfect Man</b> | <b>Greeks</b> |

### Greek Philosophy: How to produce the perfect man?

...the philosophy of Greece could produce **only a global giant like Alexander the Great**, who was merely an infant at heart. It was to this Greek mind that Luke wrote. **He presented Jesus as the perfect Man**, the universal Man, the very person the Greeks were looking for. [JV McGee]

Luke presents the perfect, divine Son God as **our great High Priest**, touched with the feeling of our infirmities, able to extend help, mercy, and love to us [JV McGee]

### Gospel of Luke

- **Synoptic Gospel:** I.e., Contain same accounts [Matthew/Mark/Luke] also things Matthew/Mark do not
- **Songs of Christmas:** Mary and Elizabeth
- Longest account of the Virgin Birth
- **20 Miracles** w/6 only found in Luke. **23 Parables** w/18 only found in Luke including...

1. **Prodigal Son**
2. **Good Samaritan**

- **Account of Road to Emmaus** revealing Jesus still human after the resurrection
- **Physician's Testimony:** Bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead
- **Sympathetic nature** of Jesus interwoven throughout the narrative
- Dr. Luke uses **more medical terms than Hippocrates**, the "father of medicine"

**The Gospel of Luke focuses on...**

- Roles of women, children, and social outcasts
  - Prayer [7 Instances of Jesus praying]
  - Holy Spirit and Joy
  - **Gospel; i.e., Good News.**
1. **Word "Gospel" used 10x in Luke** ... only once in any other Gospel
  2. **Word "Gospel" used 15x in Acts**

**Luke goal is to communicate the Good News...  
The perfect man came to save imperfect men**

## **I. Mission Gather Eye-Witness Accounts**

1 Inasmuch as many have **taken in hand** to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, **most excellent Theophilus...**

- **Taken in hand:** Matthew, Mark already written
- Luke addresses his Gospel/Book of acts to **Theophilus**

**Acts 1:1** The former account I made [Luke], O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach...

- **Theophilus:** Lit. "**Lover of God**" addressed to a Roman ruler; note "Most excellent"

**Why did Luke write to Theophilus?**

Solidify what was already taught about Jesus...

4 ...that you may know the certainty of those things **in which you were instructed.**

- **Luke was not an eyewitness** to Jesus' ministry
- **Luke gathered** his information from others:
  1. **Luke's Goal** Fashion an orderly account of Jesus earthly ministry
  2. **Luke's Method** Interview eyewitnesses including Jesus' mother Mary

Luke, though not in prison, was with Paul in Caesarea [Acts 25]. It is thought that **this is when Luke wrote his Gospel**. His two-year sojourn in Caesarea gave him opportunity to spend time in Jerusalem, and perhaps Galilee, talking with apostles and original companions of Jesus, gathering first-hand information. Mary, the mother of Jesus, may have been still living, from whose lips Luke could have [heard] her own story of Jesus' birth, childhood and many incidents in Jesus' life. [Halley, p. 581]

**SUMMARY Eye-Witness Accounts** assembled by Luke sent to all "Lovers of God"

## **II. John the Baptist Birth Announcement**

<sup>5</sup> There was in the **days of Herod, the king of Judea**, a certain **priest named Zacharias**, of the division of Abijah. [Zacharias] wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was **Elizabeth**. <sup>6</sup> And they were **both righteous before God**, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

### **Days of Herod the Great**

- Puppet King of Jews installed by Rome
- Edomite or Idumean not a Jew. **Known for...**
  1. Great Building Programs
  2. Cruelty to any who opposed him including family

### **Non-Jew sitting on Throne of David/Ruling as king of the Jews?**

- **Zacharias** Priest descendant of Aaron
- **Elizabeth** Also, a descendant of Aaron

### **Zacharias and Elizabeth: Picture of Godliness**

- **Righteous** before God
- **Blameless** before men

<sup>7</sup> But they **had no child**, because **Elizabeth was barren**, and they were both well advanced in years.

Descendant of Aaron, Righteous before God/Blameless before men. ... **barren**

**Q. Where is God? A. On the throne. By her side ready to act**

<sup>8</sup> So it was, that while [Zacharias] was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

- **Lot fell to Zacharias** One of 20,000 priests at time of Jesus
- **Once in a lifetime Honor** He would enter the Holy Place
- **Burn Incense** Law of Moses: Every morning and evening

There were several lots cast to determine who did what at the morning sacrifice. The first lot determined who would cleanse the altar and prepare its fire; the second lot determined who would kill the morning sacrifice and sprinkle the altar, the golden candlestick, and the altar of incense. The third lot determined **who would come and offer incense**. This was the **most privileged duty**; those who received the first and second lots would repeat their duty at the evening sacrifice, but not with the third lot. To offer the incense would be a **once in a lifetime opportunity**. [Guzik]

**10** And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

- **Excitement in the Air**

1. **Zechariah:** In the temple
2. **Crowd:** Outside praying/waiting

Before dawn, hundreds of worshippers gathered at the temple. The morning sacrifice began when the incense priest walked toward the temple, through the outer courts; he struck a gong-like instrument known as the Ma-gre-phah. At this sound, the Levites assembled and got ready to lead the **gathered people in songs of worship to God.**

The other two priests chosen by lot that morning walked up to the temple on each side of the priest chosen to offer the incense. All three entered the holy place together. One priest set burning coals on the golden altar; the other priest arranged the incense so it was ready to go. Then those two priests left the temple, and the incense priest was left all alone in the holy place.

In front of him was the golden altar of incense; it was 18 inches square and 3 feet high. On that small table lay the burning coals, with little wisps of smoke rising up, ready for the incense. Behind the gold altar was a huge, thick curtain, and behind that curtain was the Holy of Holies, the Most Holy Place, where no man could enter, except the high priest, and that only on the Day of Atonement. As he faced the golden altar of incense, to his right would be the table of Showbread, and to his left would be the golden lampstand, which provided the only light for the holy place.

When the people outside saw the two men exit the temple, they knew that the time to offer the incense had come. Those hundreds of people **bowed or kneeled before the Lord**, and spread their hands out in silent prayer. They knew that at that moment the incense priest prayed in the holy place, **in the very presence of God**, for the entire nation.

Burning incense **in the Temple** was a picture of prayer offered **outside the temple...**

**Psalms 141:2** Let my prayer be set **before You as incense**, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**Revelation 5:8** Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

- Prayer and Incense **reached the Living God...**

**11** Then **an angel of the Lord appeared** to [Zacharias], standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

**God's Perfect Timing for His people:** Angel appears in the Temple

- Under Roman control/tyranny/oppression
- Controlled by ruthless puppet king/imposter/monster...**Herod**

**Israel needs the help of God...**  
**God begins by sending an angel to answer their prayers**

**12** And when Zacharias saw *him*, **he was troubled**, and **fear fell** upon him.

**Imagine calling to God for help and getting a response**

- Peter imprisoned/Death sentence/Angel elbows him/Chains fall off/ Get dressed
- Disciples at house of John Mark praying for him and **Peter shows up...**

**Acts 12:13** And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. 15 But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

- **Zach prayed:** Didn't not expect the answer he received...
  1. **Troubled:** Inward commotion in the guts
  2. **Gripped by fear:** Can't move...

**13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for **your prayer** is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will **bear you a son**, and you shall **call his name John**. **14** And **you will have joy and gladness**, and **many will rejoice at his birth**. **15** For **he will be great** in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be **filled with the Holy Spirit**, even from his **mother's womb**. **16** And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

- **Angel speaks:** Don't be afraid ...**Your prayer was heard** [singular]

**What prayer did God hear from Zacharias?  
New king? New government? No...**

- **Elizabeth will have a son:** You are to call him John...Lit. *God is a Gracious Giver*
  1. Joy to you/Many others
  2. **Great** "in the sight of the Lord"
  3. **He will be a Nazarite:** Separated from sin and unto God
    - a) No Alcohol/Haircuts
    - b) Holy/Righteous Living
    - c) Filled w/Holy Spirit at birth

**Message from God through the angel to Zachariah?  
Your baby will grow up/turn MANY in Israel to "The Lord their God"**

- God's Message through angel continues...

**17** He [John] will also **go before Him** in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just...to **make ready a people** prepared for the Lord."

- He will also go before **Him**? Him Who?

**Your son John will prepare the way for the Savior of the World**

- **Message:** Repent
  1. **Fathers:** Turn your hearts from yourselves to your children and to God

2. **Disobedient/Rebellious:** Turn your hearts to wisdom/righteousness

**John will preach the Law leading to conviction of sin  
Laying their hearts open and able to receive the Grace of God**

- **Spirit/Power Elijah**

1. **First coming:** John in Spirit/Power of Elijah prepares way for Jesus as Savior
2. **Second coming:** Elijah back as one of two witnesses usher in Jesus as Judge

Elijah was a man who called Israel to a radical repentance

**John will do the same!**

- Your child will usher in the **Messiah of the world...**

18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "**How shall I know this?** For I am an **old man**, and my wife is well advanced in years."

- **Words of Unbelief**

1. Zacharias supposedly went into Temple to meet w/God supernaturally
2. Came Face to face with supernatural...His response is Unbelief.
3. I'm old. My wife is old.

**Prayed for a response...Got one...still did not believe God. Sad.**

- **For us?** What would we do if God actually showed up?

1. Healing
2. Salvation
3. Restored Relationships
4. New Job

Maybe God does not show up because we don't pray in faith/expectation?

- **Personal Examples**

1. **Capernwray incident:** God's care for me as individual
2. **I saw Satan fall like lightning from the sky:** Shooting Star
3. **2 Shooting stars:** I want 3 not 2. Third falling star

**I'm old. My wife is old. My God is just not big enough?**

19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."

- **Angel's Rebuke:** Enough!

1. **You are an old man...but I'm Gabriel** of Daniel fame [I'm older than you]
2. **You stand on earth...but I stand in the presence of God Almighty**
3. **God sent me to you** answer your prayer/prayers of those awaiting a Savior

- **Here are the 3 answers to your prayers...**

1. The Awaited Savior is coming!
2. You and Liz are having a Baby!
3. That baby will usher in God's plan to save mankind!

20 But behold, **you will be mute** and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because **you did not believe my words** which will be fulfilled in their own time."

**Because you should have been speechless in awe of God's answer  
God will make you speechless...until these things are fulfilled**

When we do not believe God's promise for our lives, we do not necessarily destroy the promise; but **we do destroy our ability to enjoy the promise**. What made this such a severe punishment was that Zacharias had such great news to tell. [Guzik]

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and **marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.**

- **Crowd Marveled he was in Temple so long...**

22 But **when he came out**, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

- **What was supposed to happen:**

After the incense priest finished, he came out of the holy place through the great doors of the temple, and met the other two priests right outside the doors. Then the incense priest raised his hands and blessed the people with the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

The hundreds of gathered worshippers knew what to do; they responded by saying, **"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting."**

After all this, the Levites got the "praise band" started. They began with a blast from special silver trumpets; then a priest struck the cymbals, and the choir of Levites began to sing the Psalm of the day. The choir was made up of not less than twelve voices, which mingled young and old for a full range of sound and probably some great harmonies. [Guzik]

**That's what was supposed to happen. What did happen?**

- **Zacharias unable to speak** Flailing his arms/Pointing to the Temple
- **Pictionary/Charades** People finally perceived he had a Vision

23 So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house.

- **Departed to his house**

Zacharias went home and “partnered with God” by trusting His promise and having normal relations with his wife... now believing God for the supernatural fulfillment of His promise for Elizabeth to have a son. Where was God? **Right there.** [NJC]

24 Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, 25 “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

- Could have revealed Himself providing children to adopt and care for
- Here God reveals Himself in supernatural conception in old age...

**Psalm 37:4** Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

- **Elizabeth**

1. Became pregnant
2. Hid away not from people but hid away w/the Lord five months

**The LORD had always been Elizabeth’s hiding place/her refuge  
As a righteous woman of God...Daughter of the King...she would know His Word**

**Psalm 32:7** You are **my hiding place**; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with **songs of deliverance.** Selah

**Psalm 61:3** You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy.

- **Zachariah** The Lord remembers
- **Elizabeth** God keeps His oath

**The Lord remembers to keep His oath**

Fulfilled by sending the Savior ushered in by their Son...John

**In View:** God’s love for the world, His love for a Nation,  
His love for Zach and Elizabeth...**and His love for you and me**