

## Possible Themes

Luke – The Story/Stories of Jesus

Luke – The Stories of Life

Luke – The Gospel of Stories

# Luke 1

We know nothing about Luke's origins. He was non-apostolic, and he was a Gentile [Col. 4:11, 14](#)

-He was a physician

-He was not an eyewitness of the things he records in Luke [Luke 1:2](#)

-He was an intimate companion of the apostle Paul starting in the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts.

-Was with Paul at the end of his life, right before he was martyred [2 Timothy 4:11](#)

-Luke is by far the longest of the four gospels

-Includes many things not found in the other three, including the first two chapters concerning Christ conception and birth

Some suggest that the gospel of Luke may be the 'most beautiful book in the world'.

Luke and Acts represents about one-quarter of the New Testament.

Luke's gospel is the universal gospel. Matthew was written to Jewish believers. Mark was written to Roman believers. John was written to the church. Luke is for everyone.

Luke is the only one of the gospel writers that did not know the physical person of Jesus.

Luke's gospel probably written about 60-61AD.

Luke was the church's first historian.

# The Purpose and Method of Luke's Gospel

Verses 1 to 4 are one long sentence in Greek.

<sup>1</sup> Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in

392  
TO RECORD

THIS IS THE STATE OF WRITING

order a narrative of those things which have been

1335 ✓

fulfilled among us,

4135  
SEUSE = TO BE FULLY CONVINCED!

<sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were

⊖

Luke got his information from eyewitnesses and other people who had served the Lord.

Luke got his material from people who had been with Jesus and were living out the truth they witnessed. **Can people tell that you have 'been' with Jesus and are you living out your faith?**

eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered

845 ✓

2 Peter 1:16-18 – Eyewitnesses of His majesty...

5257  
SERVANTS,  
HELPER

⚡

3056 ✓ 3860  
'LOGOS' TO FORMALLY IMPART AUTHORITY TO TEACHING

them to us,

<sup>3</sup> it seemed good to **me** also, having had perfect

199  
IMPLYING  
CARE AND  
ADEQUATENESS

-Luke expresses his purpose for writing in verses 3 & 4 – to write an orderly account – so that Theophilus can be certain about what he was taught  
-What does that suggest we should get from reading and studying this book? Certainty!  
-The phrase ‘perfect understanding’ has the sense that he investigated the things he wrote about himself – made sure they were true

- Luke’s gospel is the most personal – written to one person. This good news is for you Theophilus (or insert your name).

“God is a person, not a concept. We can be instructed in a concept; we can only know a person.” (Larson, 1983) - 23

understanding of all things from the very first, to

3877  
INVESTIGATE  
PROFOUNDLY



write to **you** an orderly account, most excellent

2517  
IN ORDER ORDER  
OR SEQUENCE

2903  
HIGH TONED  
DIGNITARY OR  
SOMEONE WORTHY  
OF HONOR

**Theophilus**

Theophilus = One who loves God

MENTIONS ONLY  
HERE AND ACTS 1:1

Nowhere does the Bible tell us to live by blind faith. We are invited to test the Word, to examine it, and to investigate its claims.

<sup>4</sup> that **you** may know the certainty of those things

G1921

G803 –  
Having no  
doubt

Theophilus had questions about Christ and Christianity. Questions are good! They motivate us to look for the answers. Good questions lead to good answers which leads to perfect understanding. Never stop asking questions.

in which **you** were instructed.

G2727 –  
verbally  
informed

At the time that Luke is writing about 400 years have passed since the people have heard from the Lord. Since the time of Malachi.

Zacharias = The Lord has remembered

Approximately 8,000 priests in 24 divisions – each division served for two weeks per year. 56 priests chosen by lot each day to serve.

Even though Luke is writing to a Gentile audience, he begins by linking the life of Christ to the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament.

## Zacharias Ministers in the Temple

<sup>5</sup> There was in the days of Herod, the king of

Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the

division of Abijah. His wife *was* of the daughters

of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth.

'righteous before God' doesn't mean they were perfect – their lives conformed to God's standard

"Barrenness even carried a moral stigma because in Jewish thinking it was not the fate of the righteous." (Hughes, 1998) page 21

Most of us are trying to live blameless lives before someone; a spouse, the kids, your boss. Are you blameless before God?

"The desire of their hearts was to belong to God and to serve Him." (Larson, 1983) page 26

Live blamelessly before God and you won't have to worry about anyone else.

<sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God,

OK

△

G1342 - being in accordance with God's compelling standards

walking in all the commandments and ordinances

∩

G4198 – life or behavior

G1785 – Mosaic Law

G1345 – righteous rules

of the Lord blameless.

△

Blameless and Barren!

G273 – free of guilt; not subject to blame

<sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was

'barren' = incapable of bearing children  
'well advanced in years' = too old to have children

Most did not believe in eternal life, so immortality came through your children.

Even though they were blameless, they were barren.

barren, and they were both well advanced in


G4723 – infertile, have not had children, incapable of having children, often attributed to divine action

G4260 – far along in time


years.

Some priests never got the high honor of burning incense in the temple. Could only be chosen for this honor once in your life. This was a once-in-a-lifetime honor.

<sup>8</sup> So it was, that while he 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.

<sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people was

praying outside at the hour of incense.

What had Zacharias been praying about? Verse 13 – barrenness. How long had he been praying about that? It is always too early to stop praying, even about the impossible.

## An Angel Announces the Birth of John the Baptist

<sup>11</sup> Then an  angel of the Lord  appeared to him, Zacharias

standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

<sup>12</sup> And when Zacharias saw him,  he was troubled,

G5015 -

and fear fell upon him.

G5401 -



Zacharias was praying for himself and his needs while he served the Lord.

This is first time God has spoken in over 400 years.

John = "God has been gracious" or "God has shown favor"

"Even a righteous man can pray with no sense of expectation." (Larson, 1983) page 27

What would it mean to you to hear, 'your prayer is heard'? Have you stopped praying about something? What do you pray about, as if it is too hard for God?

<sup>A</sup> 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

G5479 –  
emotion of joy

G20 -

There is going to be something special about this child.

will rejoice at his birth.

G5463 -

“Gabriel was saying that John would be a Nazirite, a man set apart by ascetic rigors to be especially devoted to God.”  
Numbers 6:1-21 (Hughes, 1998)  
24

While still in the womb, John would be filled by the Holy Spirit. That is new. Throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would show up and empower, but then depart.

15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and

G3173 –  
“megas”

G1799 – in the  
opinion of, in  
the judgment  
of

shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will

also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his

G4130 –  
generously  
supplied with

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?  
1st OCCURRENCE

mother’s womb.

16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel

G1994 -

This is John’s ministry.

Many are birthright Jews – born into the community of Judaism, but lacking a real faith in God. John would draw them back to God.

Many Christians are so by birthright, born in Christian families, or some other identification, but have no real relationship to Christ.

to the Lord their God.

<sup>17</sup> He will also go before Him in the spirit and

G4281 - G1799 - to precede

G4151 -

When the Spirit of God gets ahold of a man's heart, it changes the way he relates to his family.

This is a good test of the Spirit of God in a family – love for one another. Where God's presence is, so is love.

power of Elijah, *to turn the hearts of the fathers*

G1411 – often understood as manifesting influence over reality in a supernatural manner.

[Malachi 4:6](#)

*to the children,* and the disobedient to the

wisdom of the just, to make ready a people

G2090 - make preparations

prepared for the Lord.”

G2680 – to be ready

## Zacharias is Unable to Speak

<sup>18</sup> 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.”

Zacharias doubted – but why?

(Hughes, 1998) – 25 – Four reasons he should have believed.

1. God had done it before – Isaac, Samson, and Samuel
2. He was a priest – blameless
3. He was actively serving God – greatest day of his life
4. Gabriel, a supernatural being was standing in front of him

Doubt denies the power of God that is central to the gospel. Denies the resurrection. If God cannot cause Elizabeth to conceive, how can He raise Jesus from the dead.

<sup>19</sup> And the ~~A~~ angel answered and said to him, “I am

~~A~~ Gabriel, who stands in the presence of ~~A~~ God, and

was sent to speak to you and ~~A~~ bring you these glad

+glad +tidings  
– G2097 – to  
bring the  
gospel of  
Jesus’ birth

tidings.

Zacharias would have nine months to reflect upon his lack of faith.

Verse 62 suggests that he might have been deaf also. Silence of his own thoughts for nine months.

Unbelief will make it hard to hear from God. Faith is only way to salvation – John 5:24 'believes = eternal life' – John 6:28-29 'work of God = believe in Jesus'


<sup>20</sup> But behold, you will be mute and not able to

G4623 -

  
speak until the day these things take place,


  
because you did not believe my words which will

G4100 – to  
accept as true

  
be fulfilled in their own time.”

G4137 -

<sup>21</sup> And the people waited for Zacharias, and

marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.  

Zacharias had a radical experience with a supernatural being, who promised something impossible. Because of his unbelief, he was kept from sharing it with others, as he could have, if only he had believed.

<sup>22</sup> But when he came out, he could not speak to

them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision

G1921 -

G3701 -  
supernatural



in the temple, for he beckoned to them and

remained speechless.

<sup>23</sup> So it was, as soon as the ~~days~~ of his service

were completed, that he departed to his own

house.



Why did Elizabeth hide herself?

God wants this for all of us. He wants to take away our reproach – to take away those things that steal our dignity. He wants to bless us with the desires of our heart. He wants to give us something 'too good to be true'. Be faithful, pray persistently, and believe completely.

<sup>24</sup> Now after those <sup>Ⓢ</sup> days his wife Elizabeth

conceived; and she hid herself five months,

G4032 – to  
hide entirely

saying,

<sup>25</sup> “Thus the <sup>Ⓢ</sup> Lord has dealt with me, in the <sup>Ⓢ</sup> days

when He looked on **me**, to take away my reproach

G3681 – a  
state of  
dishonor

among people.”

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