

The Gospel of Luke

Luke

Introduction

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^a among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³Therefore, since I

prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will bring joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will never take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶Many of Israel will he bring back to the Lord his God.

991

The Birth of

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent to a town of Galilee, ²⁷and he visited a virgin named Mary. ²⁸He greeted her and said, "Greetings, favored one!"

²⁹Mary was troubled by these words and was thinking what greeting this would be.

³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God."

³¹And she said, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³²And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God."

³³And she conceived and bore a son who was the firstborn of her.

³⁴And she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

³⁵And when the eight days were completed, the name of the child was called Jesus, for so the angel had commanded.

³⁶And when Mary had given birth to her firstborn son, she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^[a] among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since **I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you,** most excellent Theophilus, ⁴**so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.**

Who was Luke?

Little is known about Luke, the author of the books of Luke and Acts. **He was a physician (doctor)** and he is the only New Testament writer clearly identifiable as **non-Jewish**. Paul mentions him by name in three books of the Bible written by him. Luke was **a close friend of Paul**, who referred to him as “the beloved physician” and “fellow laborer”.

Both the books of Luke and Acts are addressed to the same person, Theophilus. It is thought that he wrote Luke and Acts to chronicle exactly what happened from eye witness accounts about the life and the good news of Jesus Christ.

Luke was a disciple of Paul and traveled with him on many journeys. He had access to the other disciples of Jesus who were still living, and he is believed to have also interviewed Mary, Jesus’ mother directly.



John the Baptist's Story

700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah vividly describe the coming of the messiah. But he also told of a messenger that would come before Jesus:

- Isaiah 40: 3 A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD^[a]; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.^[b].....⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

Remember this for later!!



Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Mary's Song:

Luke 1: 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 rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.** ⁵³ **He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.** ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”



The Birth of Jesus

Born in a stable

Luke 2: ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



Proclaimed to shepherds

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ...²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



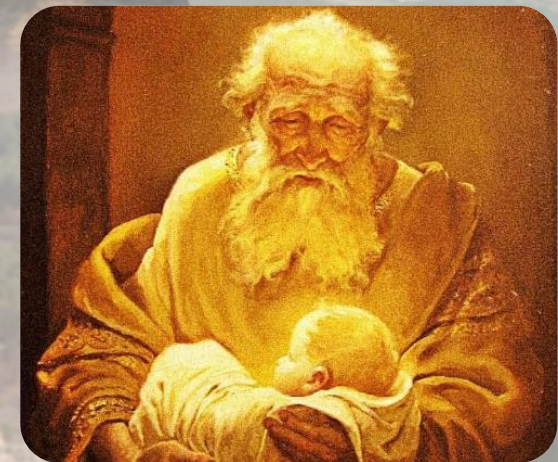
Prophesied to be a savior

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout..... and the Holy Spirit was on him.....

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”**

“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”



Luke's Story, Chapters 1 & 2

Luke-Acts Series

Luke 1-2



A Different Kind of Message

- What surprised you about some of the stories from Luke or which stories sounded a little different from how you heard them before?
- Why do you think God purposely meant for the savior to be a lowly child, familiar with suffering, without fancy things?