

LUKE 1



In 5 minutes...

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:

- Gospel means “good news.”
- Luke the author of this book wrote it to record the good news about Jesus.
- Luke was a travelling companion of the Apostle Paul.
- He was a doctor (Colossians 4:14) and may have been a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-14).
- Luke wrote more of the New Testament than any other author (based on word count).
- He wrote the book of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.
- Luke’s gospel is addressed to a man named Theophilus who may have been a Roman official.
- He wrote to him to give him confidence about the details of the Christian faith.
- Some believe Luke’s writings were used as part of Paul’s legal defense during his trial in Rome.
- The book records events which occurred in the 1st Century A.D..

WHEN:

- The events of chapter 1 occurred around 1 A.D..
- Herod the Great was king of Judea and Augustus was Caesar in Rome.

CHARACTERS:

- **Zechariah** - A Jewish priest from the tribe of Levi, described as a righteous man.
- **Elizabeth** - The wife of Zechariah also a Levite, described as a righteous woman.
- **John** - Zechariah and Elizabeth’s newborn son.
- **Mary** - A young woman from the town of Nazareth. She was a virgin betrothed to be married.
- **Joseph** - Mary’s betrothed husband (similar to a fiancé).
- **Gabriel** - An angel who was sent from the presence of God to bring good news.

WHERE:

- The events of chapter 1 take place in Nazareth, in the hill country of Judea, and the city of Jerusalem.

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OVERVIEW:

- INTRODUCTION (1:1-1:4):
- JOHN'S BIRTH FORETOLD (1:5-1:25):
 - + Zechariah is serving God in the Temple in Jerusalem when an angel appears to him.
 - + The angel tells him he and his wife will have a son who will be a prophet of God.
 - + Not just any prophet, he will be the prophet who prepares the way for the Messiah.
 - + This was big news because Elizabeth had been barren and she was getting old.
 - + Zechariah isn't confident about the angel's promise and expresses doubts.
 - + The angel isn't pleased, and makes Zechariah mute until his words become reality.
 - + After finishing his work in the Temple, Zechariah returns home to his wife and she conceives.
- JESUS' BIRTH FORETOLD (1:26-1:38):
 - + 6 months later, Gabriel makes another appearance, this time to a girl from Nazareth named Mary.
 - + Mary is a virgin but Gabriel tells her she is going to have a son.
 - + The Spirit of God would come upon her and a child would be created in her womb.
 - + The child would be a fulfillment of many of the prophecies God previously made to the Jews.
 - + He would be called the "Son of the Most High" and He would sit on King David's throne.
 - + Mary accepts the words of the angel and the role God has given her to play.
- MARY VISITS ELIZABETH (1:39-1:56):
 - + Mary makes a trip to the hill country of Judea to visit her relative Elizabeth.
 - + Upon arriving, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and blesses Mary.
 - + Then Mary is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies about the work John and Jesus will accomplish.
- THE BIRTH OF JOHN (1:57-1:80):
 - + Elizabeth gives birth to a son.
 - + Eight days later, the boy is circumcised and given the name John.
 - + Zechariah's voice is restored.

BIG PICTURE:

- The Jews have been waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years. He is about to arrive. Little did the world know, Jesus would be a blessing, not just to the Jews, but to people from every nation and every generation.

TAKEAWAYS:

- God can take someone/something seemingly insignificant and use it/them in powerful ways.
- Even the faithful struggle with doubt (1:18). Accepting God's correction will lead us to maturity (1:64).