

## LUKE/ACTS 2021-2022

### INTRODUCTION

Who is Luke? He is never mentioned in any lists of Jesus' disciples. He likely lived during the life of our Lord.

- He is credited by historical sources as the author of two New Testament books: Luke and Acts. (e.g., In Eusebius' "Ecclesiastical History" it is stated that Luke wrote at Paul's direction).
- He is mentioned in Col 4:14 as a "beloved physician." In verses 10-11 some of Paul's fellow Jews who served with him in ministry are mentioned. As Luke is mentioned later in verse 14 and additionally, had a Greek first name, some suppose that he must have been a Gentile. While that is possible, it is far from certain. Philip (along with many other Jews) had a Greek name but was an apostle, coming from Andrew and Peter's home town of Bethsaida (Jn 1:42-45).
  - \* He was either a Jew or if a Gentile, he was very well acquainted with Jewish customs and Hebraic Greek. He wrote in Greek but expressed Hebrew ideas and meaning very well.
- In 2 Tim 4:11 Paul mentions that he alone among his fellow workers, stood with him when he was a prisoner approaching the end of his life.
- Phm 24 records Luke as one of Paul's fellow workers.
- Luke is indirectly mentioned in the book of Acts.
  - \* Act 16:10 his narrative becomes 1st person ("we/us"). They believed that they were called to preach the gospel to the Macedonians.
  - \* The 1st person narrative continues until Paul is beaten and jailed in Philippi.
  - \* The 1st person narrative resumes in Act 20:6. Luke appears to have rejoined Paul at Philippi, sailing with him and joining Paul's companions (who had gone on ahead) at Troas.
  - \* He was with Paul two years later on Paul's journey (as a prisoner) to Rome.
- Luke and Acts are the only two books that are written with personal introductions.
- Luke is the English rendition of a name that can be said a couple possible ways: Lucius (Latin), Lucas (GK). Some see Lucius in Rom 16:21 (along with Lucius of Cyrene in Acts 13:1) as a possible reference to Luke. It is certainly possible but the best I think we can say is "Maybe."
- It is thought to have been written around 44-46 AD.

## LUKE

### **1A. Many had undertaken to draw up accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus - (1-4)**

- 1B.** Those things had been fulfilled among them.
- 2B.** They had been handed down by eyewitnesses and servants of the word. (See 1 Cor 15:3- ff) They had been eyewitness “from the 1st/beginning” (See Act 1:21-22, Jn 14:25-27).
- 3B.** The author had carefully investigated everything from the beginning and was setting down an orderly (“*consecutive, in a row, in order*”) account for “Theophilus.” Luke set this down in order that he (Theophilus) could know the certainty of the things that he had been taught.
  - 1C.** Theophilus = “One who loves God.”
  - 2C.** “Most Excellent” was an honorific, a title used to address a Roman official (See Act 24:3, 26:25). It is interesting that in Acts 1, the honorific isn’t used, but just the name. By that time the official’s term may have expired and the title no longer used.

### **2A. Gabriel gets around (5-38)**

- 1B. At the temple - He pays a call on Zechariah (“He who remembers Jehovah” or “He who is remembered by Jehovah”).** He and his wife were godly, had no children and were old.
  - 1C He was at the temple for his duty offering incense (He was in the priestly course of Abijah - 1 Chr 24:10).**
  - 2C. Gabriel (He is also seen in Daniel) suddenly appears at the right side of the altar and conveyed a message to Zechariah.**
    - 1D.** Zechariah’s prayers had been heard - he and his wife would have a son and they were to name him John.
    - 2D.** The boy would be a joy and a delight to his dad
    - 3D.** Many would rejoice because of his birth. Why?
    - 4D.** He would be great before the Lord (See Lk 7:28-ff)
    - 5D.** He was to live as a Nazarite (See Nu 6:1-21). What was a Nazarite?
  - 6D.** He would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.
  - 7D.** He would go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah (See Mal 4:5-6, Matt 11:14) to get people ready for the Lord.

### **4C. How did Zechariah respond to Gabriel’s message? (vs 18). He seemed to doubt.**

- 1D. Why do you suppose Gabriel held Zechariah accountable for doubting him when he seemed to give Mary a “free pass” (vs 34-37)?** Zechariah was a priest and should have known better.
- 2D. What consequence would Zechariah have to endure because of his doubting?** He was mute until the prophesy was fulfilled (And he obeyed).
- 3D. What happened when he returned home?** He and his wife were enabled to conceive.
- 4D.** What was Elizabeth’s response? She praised the Lord for His favor.

**2B. In a Galilean village - He pays visit to a young woman.**

**1C. What can you learn about her from the text? (vs 26-27).**

- 1D. She was from Nazareth.
- 2D. She was pledged (“betrothed”) to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of David. David who?
- 3D. She was a virgin.
- 4D. Her name was Mary (“Mariam”).

**2C. How did Mary respond to the Angel and his greeting?** It greatly troubled (“disturbed, agitated”) her.

**3C. What was Gabriel’s message to Mary about Jesus?**

- 1D. Do not be afraid. Why would she have been afraid?
- 2D. You have found favor (“grace, kindness”) with God.
- 3D. You will become pregnant, bear a son, and name Him Jesus.
  - 1E. He will be great.
  - 2E. He will be called the Son of the Most High.
  - 3E. The Lord will give Him the throne of His father David (He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. (See Is 9:1-7, Dan 2:31-35, 44, 7:13-14; Mic 5:1-4 and lots more.)

**4C. What did she see as an obstacle to the plan of God and how did Gabriel respond?**

She was a virgin and had never been sexually active.

**1D. Why would Gabriel mention Elizabeth to Mary? How would this have helped her?**

It would show her the power of God to do as He pledged.

**5C. Finally, how did Mary reply to Gabriel?** She offered herself in obedience to God. When we pray, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” do we mean it? Think about what she was about to experience.

**For Next week please read Lk 1 again paying special attention to verses 39-80. Then answer the following questions. This is good stuff!!**

**1. From 1:39-44 describe Mary's meeting with Elizabeth.**

- a. Where did Elizabeth and Zechariah live?**
- b. How did Elizabeth greet Mary?**
- c. Why did she proclaim Mary blessed?**

**2. What does Mary say in her prayer of praise (vs 46-55)? Make a list.**

**3. John is born and named by his father. The first words out of His father's mouth after nine months of silence was prophetic praise.**

- a. How did the family, neighbors etc. react?**
- b. Think about the birth of Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Sampson - when God brings about a birth through miraculous and unusual circumstances, is there message being conveyed?**

**4. 1:67 - 79 records Zechariah's prayer:**

- a. What does he say in verses 67-75 and about whom? Make a list and be specific. There is some incredible stuff here!!!!**

- b. What does he say in verse 76-79 about his newborn son?**

**5. Finally, what does the text tell us about John?**

## LUKE 1: 39-80.

### 3A. God's Plan Revealed

**1B. Where did Elizabeth and Zechariah live?** All the text says is that those who heard about it were from the hill country of Judea (1:65) and that that is where Zechariah and Elizabeth lived (1:39).

**2B. How did Elizabeth greet Mary?** She was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed that Mary was "blessed among women," and "blessed" was the child that she was to bear. And she asked the question,

**1C. "Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"** (God had obviously revealed to Elizabeth what He was doing through Mary. Mary had to be newly pregnant as she got ready immediately and left for her relative's house at the time of Gabriel's visit.)

**2C. Elizabeth even testified to the joy of the child that she was carrying.**

**3C. Her final words were that Mary was blessed because she "believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"**

**3B. Why did she proclaim Mary blessed?** Again, because Mary heard God's word and acted on it. See Gen 15:6.

**4B. What does Mary say in her prayer of praise (vs 46-55)? Make a list.** That her soul glorifies the Lord and her spirit rejoices in God her Savior.

**1C.** He had been mindful of the humble state of His servant (Mary) and done great things for her.

**2C.** His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation.

**3C.** He has performed mighty deeds with His arm (power)

**4C.** He has scattered those who were proud in their inmost thoughts.

**5C.** He has brought down rulers from their thrones but lifted up the humble.

**6C.** He has filled the hungry with good things but sent the rich away empty.

**7C.** He has helped His servant Israel, showing mercy to Abraham and his descendants forever just as He promised. (See Gen 12, 15, 17 etc).

**5B. John is born and named by his father. The first words out of His father's mouth after nine months of silence was prophetic praise.**

**1C. What did he praise God for in verses 67-75?**

**2C. What did he say in his prophetic word about his newborn son?**

**3C. How did the family, neighbors etc. react?** Fear, awe, a reverence for God whose hand was obviously in what they had just witnessed. Look at Lk 5:8 and Is 6:5 for another example.

**4C. Think about the birth of Isaac, Esau and Jacob, Sampson - when God brings about a birth through miraculous and unusual circumstances, is there a message being conveyed?** If anything, "Pay attention! Something significant is happening."

**5C. 1:67 - 79 records Zechariah's prayer:**

**1D. What does he say in verses 67-75 and about whom? Make a list and be specific. There is some incredible stuff here!!!!**

**2D.** First he speaks about Jesus:

**1E.** God has come and redeemed His people.

**2E.** He raised up a horn of salvation (the term "horn" speaks of power or a powerful person) for us ("Israel") in the house of His servant David (See Is 55), just as He said through His prophets.

**1F.** Salvation from their enemies.

**2F.** Salvation from the hand of all who hate them.

**3F.** To show mercy to the fathers (patriarchs).

**4F.** To remember His holy covenant, the oath He swore to Abraham.

**5F.** To rescue Israel from the hand of their enemies.

**6F.** To enable them (and us!) to serve Him in righteousness and holiness before Him all our days.

**3D. What does he say in verse 76-79 about his newborn son?**

**1E.** He would be called a prophet of the Most High.

**2E.** He would go on before the Lord to prepare that way for Him (See Is 40, Mal 3/4)

**3E.** To give God's people the knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of sin (e.g., Jn 1:29).

**4E.** Through the "tender mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun will come to us from heaven." John came to prepare the way for the Savior, Jesus (See Lk 3:1-18). You might want to examine 2 Pet 1:19 as well.

**1F.** To shine on those living in darkness and in the land of the shadow of death. (See Is 9:1-7).

**2F.** To guide our feet into the path of peace.

**6C. Finally, what does the text tell us about John?** He grew and became strong in spirit, lived in the desert until his public appearance to Israel.

## **HOMEWORK**

Please read Luke chapter 2, and from verses 1-40 answering the following questions:

1. From vs 1-3 what was going on in the world into which He was born? See what you can find out on the internet or from reference books.
  
2. From vs 4-7 and Matt 1:18-25 what was Joseph and Mary's situation? (e.g, Dt 22:23-24, 28).
  - a. How did Joseph respond to learning that his betrothed was pregnant?
  
  - b. What do you think things were like for Mary? Explain.
  
  - c. What isn Joseph decide to do and why?
  
3. How and where was Jesus born?
  
4. Look at verses 8-20
  - a. To whom was the announcement of Jesus' birth made?
  
  - b. Where were they?
  
  - c. Describe what happened.
  
  - d. What is the heavenly host?
  
  - e. How did those who saw and heard the angelic announcement respond?
  
  - f. How does it say that Mary reacted to the visit?
  
5. Look up to Matt 2:1-12 - When did the Magi (Wise Men) visit the holy family?
  - a. Where does it say that they came from?
  
  - b. Where did their visit take place?
  
  - c. When was this event? (Hint \_ your manger creche is wrong).

## LUKE

### 4A. Emmanuel - God with us. (2:1-40)

**1B. From vs 1-3 what was going on in the world into which He was born? See what you can find out on the internet or from reference books.** Western Europe, the Mediterranean basin (Italy, the Balkans, Greece, Spain, North Africa, and the Middle East) were under Roman rule. A rough peace had been imposed by a central government. The trade language was common (or “koine”) Greek, travel was possible and the chaos of multiple, minor warring states ended. Rome was the overall political reality of that part of the world. Judea/Israel, which had won independence from Syria and maintained it for approx. 100 years had been conquered by the Roman general Pompey in 63 BC. A client king, Herod now ruled.

**1C.** He was an Idumean and had assumed the throne and ruled by Rome’s consent.

**2C.** He had married the daughter of the last Jewish ruler and converted to Judaism.

**3C.** He was generally detested by much of the population and he repressed opposition brutally.

**4C.** He engaged in imposing public works (Caesarea, the temple, many fortresses etc).

**5C.** The people of Judea paid taxes to Rome (through Herod).

**6C.** Roman bases existed and troops were quartered in Judea.

**7C.** The Jews themselves were politically divided. Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealotes, Herodians, etc.

**2B. From vs 4-7 and Matt 1:18-25 what was Joseph and Mary’s situation? (e.g, Dt 22:23-24, 28).** They were betrothed and she was found to be pregnant. In the law the penalty was death. Unless the child was Joseph’s - in which case they would marry under a cloud of judgement.

**1C. How did Joseph respond to learning that his betrothed was pregnant?** It doesn’t say much but he had to be pretty upset.

**2C. What do you think things were like for Mary? Explain.** Who would believe her? It wasn’t easier to believe things in that day than it is today. She would likely have been estranged from her parents, likely from her friends, extended family and neighbors. A painful, lonely time. At least Elizabeth believed and rejoiced for her. That was something. The pressure to confess immorality and name the father must have been incredible.

**3C. What did Joseph decide to do and why?** He was a righteous man and wanted to put her away (i.e., divorce her) quietly. He had compassion on her and did not want to subject her to public disgrace/humiliation. In the end, because of God’s intervention and enlightening, Joseph took her as his wife. He had to know what his action would be seen as by people. To obey God he and Mary sacrificed a lot.

**3B. How and where was Jesus born?** He was born outside of Bethlehem in a place where there was a manger (a feed trough) for livestock. The implication was that he was born in a stable. There was no room at the inn. She was far from home, without her mom. If anyone with experience was available to help her through labor and delivery it is not recorded.

**4B. Look at verses 8-20**

**1C. To whom was the announcement of Jesus' birth made?** To shepherds. Not priests, levites, kings or philosophers. Just common working people.

**2C. Where were they?** Out in their fields. Probably some were asleep while one or two others kept watch.

**3C. Describe what happened.** An angel appeared and announced the birth of a Savior. And a great host of other angels appeared praising God.

**4C. What is the heavenly host?** The angelic army of God.

**5C. How did those who saw and heard the angelic announcement respond?** In fear, amazement and excitement. They went into town and searched for the child until they found him. It wasn't a silent night!

**6C. How does it say that Mary reacted to the visit?** She treasured it in her heart. The confirmation of her initial obedience must have been welcome indeed.

**5B. Look up to Matt 2:1-12 - When did the Magi (Wise Men) visit the holy family?** It doesn't say. But the word used to describe Jesus in Matt 1 describes a small child, not an infant. And Herod, when he tried to kill the child, went after all male children 2 years old and under. So I'd guess around 1.5 years give or take a couple months.

**1C. Where does it say that they came from?** From the east. Likely Parthia (Iran). Parthia was Rome's only serious rival in that day.

**2C. Where did their visit take place?** In a *house*.

**3C. When was this event? (Hint \_ your manger creche is wrong).** Well, the obvious (At least to me) conclusion is that it was a year and a half or more after the birth of Jesus.

**6B. Read Lk 2:21-40 and answer the following:**

**1C. Why was Jesus circumcised on the 8th day? (Lev 12:1-3)** Because that is the day commanded by the law. For observant Jews this was to be expected. I added this question only to show that Joseph and Mary were conscientious about observing the law. For them compliance with God's commands seem to be important.

**2C. Why did Joseph and Mary offer a sacrifice of doves? What does this say about them? (Lev 12:8).** They were poor. Jesus was not born into a life of comfort and privilege.

**7B. From verses 25-35:**

**1C. What do we know about Simeon?**

**1D.** He was righteous ("*godly, approved by God, just*")

**2D.** and devout (describing someone who respects and venerates God. Someone who was God-fearing). What does it mean to be devoted to something? When someone is devoted to God what does it look like?

**3D.** He was waiting ("*waiting expectantly, looking for*") for the consolation of Israel (a reference to the Messiah).

**4D.** The Holy Spirit was upon him.

**5D.** He was directed/led by the Spirit into the temple courts.

**6D.** When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple to present (dedicate) Him to the Lord (See Ex 13:2) Simeon took Him in his arms praised God and prophesied.

**2C. What had God revealed to him?** The Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

**3C. What was the Spirit's message to Jesus' parents? Make a list.** To Mary he said:

**1D.** He was destined to cause the rising and falling of many in Israel.

**2D.** He would be a sign that would be spoken against so that the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed (With Jesus, neutrality is not an option).

**3D.** And that a sword would pierce her own soul as well. Can you imagine Jn 19:26?

**8B. From verses 36-40:**

**1C. What do we know about Anna?** She was a prophetess. She had been married seven years and had lived as a widow until her 84th year (or until she was 84). She was of the tribe of Asher, the daughter of Phanuel. She never left the temple (This does not mean that she lived there but that she was there "whenever the doors were open." She spent her time fasting and praying.

**2C. What did she do upon meeting Jesus and His parents?** She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. It seems that she told other devout people with whom she had fellowship about Jesus. She came at that time (When Simeon was with them).

**9B. How did Joseph and Mary react to all these events/encounters?** They marveled at (“wondered, astonished, amazed”) what was said about Him (2:33).

**1C. This trip to the temple seems to have been part of a longer journey. How does this reconcile with Matt 2?** They must have come from Bethlehem to Jerusalem (A fairly short trip) and then returned. Matthew 2 seems to clearly show that they relocated to Nazareth after a sojourn in Egypt.

**2C. When does it state that Jesus and His parents relocated back to Nazareth? (Mtt 2).** Jesus would have been roughly 1.5 to 2 years old when the family went to Egypt. He’d have been 3.5 to 4 yrs old when they returned to Nazareth. Their homecoming must have been... interesting.

Just a few closing thoughts:

The prophetic ministry of Anna and Simeon, the visit of the magi and the shepherds must have been of great comfort to Joseph and Mary, confirming to them that they were right to have acted as they did. What a faith-builder. They’d need that confirmation when they faced their home town crowd in Nazareth (Deut 23:2)

God had poured out His Spirit and revealed His mysteries to people who loved Him. Just as He had in the past. Just as He will in the future. He is always consistent and will never contradict His word or character.

God had people who loved Him and were anticipating the fulfillment of His promises then, just as He does now. I love the message of Jn 14:21, Ps 25:14, Jn 7:17 and Heb 11:6. To those who seek Him, He reveals Himself (Jer 29:13).

To whom did God reveal His salvation? A couple of obedient, ordinary young people, to an elderly couple (Zechariah and Elizabeth), to shepherds just out doing their jobs, to a couple of godly, elderly people who loved Him. Not to kings, not to philosophers, not to religious leaders, not to the comfortable or powerful. Look at Is 53 - he came as an ordinary man. He came as the “lowest common denominator” to identify with us all. Look at 1 Cor 1:18-2:5.

## HOMEWORK

For next week we will take a break from Luke and look at some messianic prophecies from the Old Testament.

Read and look up the following scriptures and write down what you find:

Gen 3:15

Gen 12:1-3/Gal 3:7

Gen 49:10

Num 24:16

Deut 18:14-19

2 Sam 7:12-16

Ps 2, 16:8-11

Ps 110:1-4

Ps 118:22-29

Is 9:1-7

Is 11:1-16

Is 40 1-11

Is 42:1-6

Is 52:13-53:12

Dan 7:13-14

Mic 5:2

Zec 9:9

Zec 11:12-13

Mal 4:5-6.

Write down what you get out of each passage and how it points to Jesus. Enjoy!!! This is good stuff:)

## **5A. Jesus at the temple**

**Luke 2:41-52**

*This is the only place in scripture where we learn anything about Jesus' childhood. From the text lets see what we can learn:*

- 1. How often does it say that Jesus went to the temple?**
  - a. How often was attendance at the temple commanded? (Ex 23:7, Dt 16:16)**
  - b. What does this text tell us (if anything) about Joseph and Mary?**
  
- 2. Do you find it odd that they did not worry about Jesus' whereabouts for a full day of travel after they had left Jerusalem? Explain**
  - a. Where did they look for Him?**
  - b. What did they do when they could not find Him?**
  - c. How long did they search?**
  
- 3. When they found their son, what was He doing?**
  - a. Who was He with?**
  - b. What was He doing?**
  - c. What affect did He have on those with whom He spoke? Why? (2 Tim 3:15-17)**
  
- 4. How did His parents deal with Him when they found Him?**
  - a. How did He answer them?**
  - b. What does His answer reveal about His understanding of His identity? Look at Jn 1:14, Rom 8:1-4, Heb 2:10-18, 4:15 - In what ways did Christ identify with humanity?**
  
- 5. How did things end up?**

## LUKE

### 5A. Luke 2:41-52. Jesus at the Temple

*This is the only place in scripture where we learn anything about Jesus' childhood. From the text lets see what we can learn:*

1. **How often does it say that Jesus went to the temple?** For Passover, annually.
  - a. **How often was attendance at the temple commanded?**
    - **Ex 23:14-17** Three times a year.
    - **Dt 16:16** Three times a year.
  - b. **What does this text tell us (if anything) about Joseph and Mary?** They had the courage to stand firm (Dt 23:2). They were observant. And they must have had thick skin.
2. **Do you find it odd that they did not worry about Jesus' whereabouts for a full day of travel after they had left Jerusalem? Explain.** No. Anyone who has been raised in a large and close extended family can likely relate. In my childhood, at family events we were with uncles, aunts, cousins etc. We were a mob. If we stepped out of line we might get a swat from a grandparent, cousin, aunt etc. We might get fed by them or stay over with them. I spent a few nights (and many meals) with cousins etc. My folks knew where we were (generally).
  - a. **Where did they look for Him?** All among their relatives and friends.
  - b. **What did they do when they could not find Him?** They returned to Jerusalem. Can you imagine their state of mind?
  - c. **How long did they search?** Three days. Likely "on" the third day.
3. **When they found their son, what was He doing?** Sitting in the temple among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions.
  - a. **Who was He with?** The teachers.
  - b. **What was He doing?** Listening to them and questioning them.
  - c. **What affect did He have on those with whom He spoke? Why? (2 Tim 3:15-17)**  
He "amazed / astonished" them with His understanding and answers. His word is powerful. See Is 9:6, 11, Jer 23:5 - What would He have been like?

**4. How did His parents deal with Him when they found Him?** The language indicates that they searched hard for Him. They must have been somewhat emotional when they found Him - relieved, exasperated etc. Their language indicates that they were distressed (“In torment, pain”) as they sought Him. They wanted to know why He had treated them as He had?

**a. How did He answer them?** “Did you not know that I must of necessity (“lit: “behooves me”) be about My Father’s business?”

**b. What does His answer reveal about His understanding of His identity?**

- **Jn 1:14** He (The Word - the embodiment of all God is and does) became flesh and dwelt/lived among us.
- **Rom 8:1-4** He came as one of us, in a body under the curse. He knew no sin but shared with us in the physical affects of living in a fallen world.
- **Heb 2:10-18** Because we have flesh and blood, He did too.
- **Heb 4:15** He identified with us in our humanity.

## LUKE

**6A. Prepare the way! (3:1-20)**

**1B. Look up Isaiah 40:1-11 and describe the ministry of the one who prepares the way.**

**1C. Who accepted it and rejected it (Lk 7:29-30)**

**2B. Look up Mal 2:17-3:5 and Mal 4:5-6 and describe the ministry of:**

**1C. God's messenger (3:1a)**

**2C. The messenger of the covenant (3:1b-5)**

**3C. Elijah (4:5-6)**

**4C. Look up Matt 11:1-14 - what did Jesus say about the Elijah who was to come and of John in general?**

**3B. What was different about the ministry of John the Baptist? (Jn 10:40-42)**

**4B. Finally, from Luke 3:7-19, what was John's message?**

## LUKE

### 6A. Prepare the Way! (Luke 3:1-22)

#### 1B. Look up Isaiah 40:1-11 and describe the ministry of the one who prepares the way.

A voice in the desert/wilderness preparing the way for our God. God's glory would be revealed and His message declared. A new kingdom was coming - not human but Divine (See Dan 7). Unlike human kingdoms, it will endure. He would say to Jerusalem, "Behold your God." Look at Jn 1:28-29 for an example.

**1C. Who accepted it and rejected it (Lk 7:29-30)** The common people, even the tax collectors (who were outcasts because they cooperated with the Roman occupation) acknowledged that God's way was right. Why? Because they had submitted to God's message through John. The Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's message given through John and thus rejected God's purpose for themselves.

#### 2B. Look up Mal 2:17-3:5 and Mal 4:5-6 and describe the ministry of:

**1C. God's messenger (3:1a)** He would be sent ahead of God (The Messenger of the Covenant) to prepare the way before Him.

**2C. The messenger of the covenant (3:1b-5)** He was the One that Israel was longing for but they were not prepared for His coming. Why? His ministry would confront religious hypocrisy and compromise.

**3C. Elijah (4:5-6)** He would come before the great and dreadful day of the LORD, turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and vice versa. (See Also Lk 1:14-17)

**4C. Look up Matt 11:1-14 - what did Jesus say about the Elijah who was to come and of John in general?** John was the Elijah who was to come (vs 14). About John he said, He was not a man who sought popularity and bent one way and then another in the "wind." John was constant. He was not living a life of privilege, nor did he cultivate those who did. He was a prophet and the greatest of them. From John's days until Jesus' ministry, the kingdom was advancing and people who humbled themselves and accepted God's message were eagerly and zealously laying hold of it. He was the Elijah who was to come. Those who rejected his ministry and message were always trying to have things their way.

**3B. What was different about the ministry of John the Baptist? (Jn 10:40-42)** It was not characterized by the supernatural. Compared to Elijah or Elisha he was quite different. We

cannot judge the spiritual value of a ministry by external things or demonstrations. What is the biblical standard for a Spirit - filled ministry? See Gal 5:22-23.

**4B. Finally, from Luke 3:7-19, what was John's message?**

- 1C. Repent!
- 2C. Produce fruit in keeping with repentance (Act 26:20).
- 3C. Don't think that you can claim any birthright "salvation."
- 4C. Today is the day - it is judgement time ("Axe etc.")
- 5C. Live your faith.
- 6C. He denied that he was the Christ.
- 7C. He who was to come was more powerful than he (John didn't feel worthy to untie his sandal thongs (the function of a common bond-slave).
- 8C. John baptized with water but the One coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
  - 1D. He is the Judge ("winnowing fork" shows in poetic language that Jesus will sift humanity and reward the righteous and punish the ungodly). See Is 40:10.

**5B. John spoke truth to power and "power" did not like it. Like his Lord, John was no respecter of persons.**

**6B. Why was Jesus baptized? (See Jn 1:29-34).** To reveal the Messiah to Israel.

### **HOMEWORK**

**Read Luke 3:23-39, Matt 1:1-17 and Jer 22:26-30 and answer the following:**

1. **Reading the genealogies in Matt and Luke, what are the differences? Please list them.**
2. **What do you think might account for the apparent discrepancies?**
3. **What is important to note about the genealogy in Matthew in light of Jeremiah 22?**
4. **Look up Ezra 2:59-63, how important was it for the priesthood that one know their genealogy? Would an heir to David's throne be equally important? Explain.**

## LUKE

Luke 3:23-39, Matt 1:1-17 and Jer 22:26-30

### 7A. Heir to the Throne (3:23-38)

**1B. Reading the genealogies in Matt and Luke, what are the differences? Please list them.** In Matthew's account, the genealogy is traced down through David's son Solomon. In Luke's account it is traced down through David's son Nathan.

**2. What do you think might account for the apparent discrepancies?** Mary and Joseph were descended from David but through different sons of the king. They are two separate genealogies.

**3. What is important to note about the genealogy in Matthew in light of Jeremiah 22?** Matthew's genealogy shows that Joseph was not eligible to be king. That line was cursed and according to the word of the Lord would never reign.

**4. Look up Ezra 2:59-63, how important was it for the priesthood that one know their genealogy?** It was vitally important. If a descendant of Aaron could not show that they were descended from him they could not serve as a priest until a priest with an urim and thummim could inquire of the Lord. **Would an heir to David's throne be equally important?** Yes. **Explain.** The heir of David would be the fulfillment of many prophecies and could not be just anyone. There were likely many pretenders to the crown. There had to be proof.

**Luke**  
**4:1-44**

**8A. His public ministry begins**

**1B.** Immediately following His baptism by John, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days.

**1C.** Satan tempted Him there, trying to use His humanity against Him. This was something new for Satan. He is not all-knowing as God is. He knew who Jesus was but wasn't sure what the incarnation meant. As both God and man could Satan somehow get to Him? Tempt Him? Derail God's plan? Although one would think that he surely knew better he still gave it a try.

**1D.** He tried to tempt Jesus using human weakness (hunger, pride, avarice, avoidance of pain etc). Remember 1 Pet 5:8!

**2D.** Satan even tried to justify his temptation by using scripture. Jesus countered with scripture used rightly.

**3D.** When Satan left Jesus angels came to minister to His needs (Mtt 4:11). Satan watched and waited for opportunity. If he couldn't get at Jesus directly, he would try to use other methods. Consider these: Those who were demon possessed would cry out and proclaim Jesus' identity. God in His timing revealed things to humanity when and where He chose. Satan wanted to mess this up if he could. He would eventually possess Judas to try and subvert God's plan another way. And he was constantly trying other things too. Wee have an enemy.

**2B.** When Jesus began His public ministry He authenticated His message and claims through the miraculous. He went about the countryside and taught in their synagogues (meeting houses). The folks at home wanted some consideration, some special treatment.

**1C.** Does anyone have an "inside track" to God? (Rom 2:11)

**2C.** Look up Matt 21:46-50 and Mk 3:31-34, Lk 8:19-21 Who is Jesus' family? See also Heb 2:11, 11:16.

**3C.** How did the people in His hometown view Him? Did they have an agenda?

**4C.** What did Jesus make plain in 4:23-30 and how did the crowd react? Where were they?

**3B.** In 4:31-37 Jesus is recorded as having gone into the synagogue in Capernaum to teach.

**1C.** Why were the people amazed? (vs 32). Compare this with Matt 5:21-43.

**2C.** What did Jesus' interaction with the demon possessed man demonstrate in vs 33-35?

**1D.** What did the demon fear? (vs 34, Mk 5:7, Mtt 8:29, Jas 2:19)

**2D.** How did the demon identify Jesus in the synagogue?

**3D.** What did the people conclude (vs 36-37)?

**4B.** In 4:38-44 Jesus' visit in Capernaum at Peter's house described.

**1C.** What did He do there for Peter's family?

**2C.** What did He do there for those who came to Him for help? Why did Jesus perform miracles? See Act 2:22, Heb 2:1-4

**3C.** Why did Jesus not allow the demons to testify to His identity?

**5B. In vs 42-44** Jesus went out at dawn to a solitary place looking for some quiet time. People searched for Him until they found Him.

**1C.** What did they do?

**2C.** Why?

**3C.** How did Jesus respond?

**LUKE**  
**5:1-39**

**1. Jesus calls Peter**

- a. He used Peter's boat as a pulpit, to escape the press of the crowds.
- b. He revealed Himself to Peter and his partners (Andrew, his brother, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee).
  - When He finished teaching He directed Peter to put out into deep water and let down his nets for a catch.
  - What He did was completely counter to the way it was done:
    - \* He usually fished at night, and used torches to illumine the area around the boat.
    - \* He fished in relatively shallow water (a few feet deep) anchored. This allowed him and his coworkers to pull in the net against the tension of the anchor that was dropped off the other side. He couldn't get a full net into the boat without the risk of swamping it without the anchor point.
    - \* He and his fellow fishermen had just finished a hard night of fishing and came up empty. They had just mended and dried their nets and needed to go home and rest before the coming night's work.
  - Peter, rather than dishonor his teacher, complied and got the shock of his career - enough fish to fill two boats.
  - Peter was immediately conscious of the supernatural element in all this and became uncomfortable - he was a sinner in the presence of the divine. (See Is 6:1-13).
    - \* Just as Isaiah and Peter received grace and offered themselves to God, so we are called to do the same. Rom 12:1 tells us that "in view of God's mercy," we should offer our bodies to God as "living sacrifices." This is holy, acceptable ("well-pleasing") and is our reasonable (as in "reasoned/thought out) act of service (a word used to describe the ministry of the Jewish priests in the temple.
  - Jesus then called on Peter to be a fisher of men. If He wanted Pete to be a fisher of fish, He had already proven that He could prosper him in this. He had a higher goal for Peter.
- c. Peter and his companions left it all and followed Jesus.

**2. Jesus' ministry and message was authenticated by the power of the Spirit.**

- a. He healed a leper and sent him to the priest as a testimony to them (Of what?!)
- b. News regarding Him got out and crowds came to be healed.
- c. He healed a paralytic in front of a crowd of religious leaders - God served notice that Jesus' ministry was from Him. See also Jn 3:1-2.
  - Jesus saw the paralytic's and his friend's faith and told him that his sins were forgiven. Who alone can forgive sins? Think about what He was claiming.
  - The leaders were judging Jesus to be a blasphemer and Jesus confronted them with proof of His authority. Who alone can forgive or claim authority over the physical world?

**3. Jesus calls Matthew**

- a. Matt was a tax contractor, collaborating with the Roman occupation. He and such as himself were hated as traitors and rejected by "polite society." He hung out with a rough crowd. Jesus called him to follow and he did just that.
- b. The pharisees were offended that Jesus would deign to associate with such an ungodly man and questioned Jesus' disciples about it. Look how Jesus answered them:
  - It isn't the healthy (or those who *think* that they are healthy who need a doctor but the sick.

- He told them to learn what the bible means when it says of God that He “desires mercy, not sacrifice.” (Mtt 9:9-13)

\* God didn't send Jesus to call the (self) righteous but sinners.

**4. Fasting** The disciples of John the Baptist fasted often, as did the Pharisees but Jesus and His disciples did not. They wanted to know why?

a. For one, Jesus was with them. They could fast later!

b. They were mixing “apples and oranges” by applying an Old Covenant understanding to the New Covenant.

c. What did Jesus mean by His illustrations in Lk 5:36-39?

## **HOMEWORK**

**Read Luke 6 and answer the following questions as best you can:**

**1. Read Deut 23:25 - were Jesus' disciples breaking the law? Can you find anyplace where it says that they could not do what they were doing? Were they harvesting (and thus working) on the Sabbath?**

**2. How did Jesus reply to them? (Lk 6:3-5) What was His conclusion?**

**3. In verses 6-11 Jesus confronted the Pharisees and teachers of the law with the limitations of their legalism.**

a. How did He do it? (vs 6-10)

b. What question did He ask them?

c. What happened to the man's hand? What did this indicate?

d. How did His opponents respond?

**4. In 6:12-16, Jesus chose 12 apostles. How many were there? See what you can find out. Look at Act 1:1-5, 15-26: What was an apostle? What are the qualifications? Look at Rom 16:7, Act 14:14, Luke 9 and 10 too.**

**5. Describe the crowd that the text speaks of in Lk 6:17-19.**

a. Why does it say that the people came to hear Him?

b. From 6:20-46, can you draw up an outline of His sermon? Just hit the “high spots.” Don't worry about it being incomplete - we will flesh it out together next time :)

## LUKE

### Luke 6

- 1. Read Deut 23:24-25 - were Jesus' disciples breaking the law? Can you find anyplace where it says that they could not do what they were doing? Were they harvesting (and thus working) on the Sabbath?** See also Lev 19:9-10, 23:22; Deut 24:19
  - a. What is Jesus' authority where the law is concerned?
  - b. Who gave the law? (See how Jesus handled the misapplication of the law in Mat 5-7).
  
- 2. How did Jesus reply to them? (Lk 6:3-5) What was His conclusion?** Can you imagine the frustration of their taking God's commands in such an extreme that they did not love their neighbor? How would that look to God? See Mal 3:1-ff and 1 Jn 3:16-ff)
  
- 3. In verses 6-11 Jesus confronted the Pharisees and teachers of the law with the limitations of their legalism.**
  - a. How did He do it? (vs 6-10)
  - b. What question did He ask them?
    - Does God want the poor to go hungry on the Sabbath?
    - How are we to react to an emergency on a day of worship? (See Lk 14:5)
  - c. What happened to the man's hand? What did this indicate?
    - It confirmed Jesus' claims (See Jn 5:30, 10:25-30, 37-38, 14:11; Act 2:22)
  - d. How did His opponents respond?
  
- 4. In 6:12-16, Jesus chose 12 apostles. How many were there? See what you can find out. Look at Act 1:1-5, 15-26:**
  - a. What was an apostle?
  - b. What are the qualifications? Look at Rom 16:7, Act 14:14, Luke 9 and 10 too.
  
- 5. Describe the crowd that the text speaks of in Lk 6:17-19.**
  - a. Why does it say that the people came to hear Him?
  - b. From 6:20-49, can you draw up an outline of His sermon? Just hit the "high spots." Don't worry about it being incomplete - we will flesh it out together next week. :)

Blessed are those who seek God and His salvation

Cursed are those who find their reward selfishly in this life (What does Jesus imply about their motives?)

Love your enemies (If you merely love those/lend to those whom reciprocate, what are you doing more than the world?)

Don't condemn others. If you do you will be held to the same standard.

Look to your own life before you presume to correct someone else (See also Gal 6:1-5).

Actions speak louder than words. Look at the fruit.

You can “build” your life any way you choose, but it will only be as good as its foundation.

- Those who reject Christ will not ultimately prosper.
- Those who accept Christ will prosper eternally.
- Notice what happens to both “houses.”

**OK, here is a more organized attempt:**

**Setting:** Message at a level place

**Who:** A large crowd of His disciples and a great number of people from all over (even Gentiles) came.

**Why:** People came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases (Jn 6:1-71)  
Why did people try to touch Him?

**Message:**

**Blessed are you:**

- Who are poor (Yours is the kingdom of God).
- Who hunger now (You will be satisfied).
- Who weep now (You will laugh).
- Who are hated, excluded, insulted, rejected as evil because of Jesus (Rejoice and leap for joy - great is your reward in heaven).

**Woe to you:**

- Who are rich (You have already received your comfort).
  - Is being well-off wrong?
  - Where is the line? If being rich is wrong, how much is too much?
  - Can one be poor and yet greedy?
  - Look up the following passages: Lk 18:23-30, 1 Tim 6:6-10, 17-19; 1 Jn 3:16)
- Who are well-fed (You will go hungry).
- Who laugh now (You will mourn and weep).
- When all men speak well of you (That is how their fathers treated the prophets).

**Love and do good to the least:**

- Enemies (Ex 23:4-5, Lev 19:17-18)
- Those who hate you.
- Who insult you and take advantage of you.

**Love unconditionally:**

- If love is merely reciprocal/contingent, what good is that?
- Love and do good to your enemies. Why? See also Ex 23:4-5
- Be merciful as your Father is merciful.
- You will recognize genuine faith / love by its fruit.

**A life directed by faith will bear appropriate fruit:**

- a. Those who follow Jesus and seek to obey Him are on a firm foundation.
- b. Those who do not follow Him are on (very) shaky ground.
- c. Jesus calls on us to be wise and act on what He tells us.
  - What is the difference in outcome for the wise and foolish?
  - What indicates this spiritual wisdom in life?
  - In this illustration, what comes to both “houses?”
  - Look up 2 Cor 4:7-18 and Jn 16:31

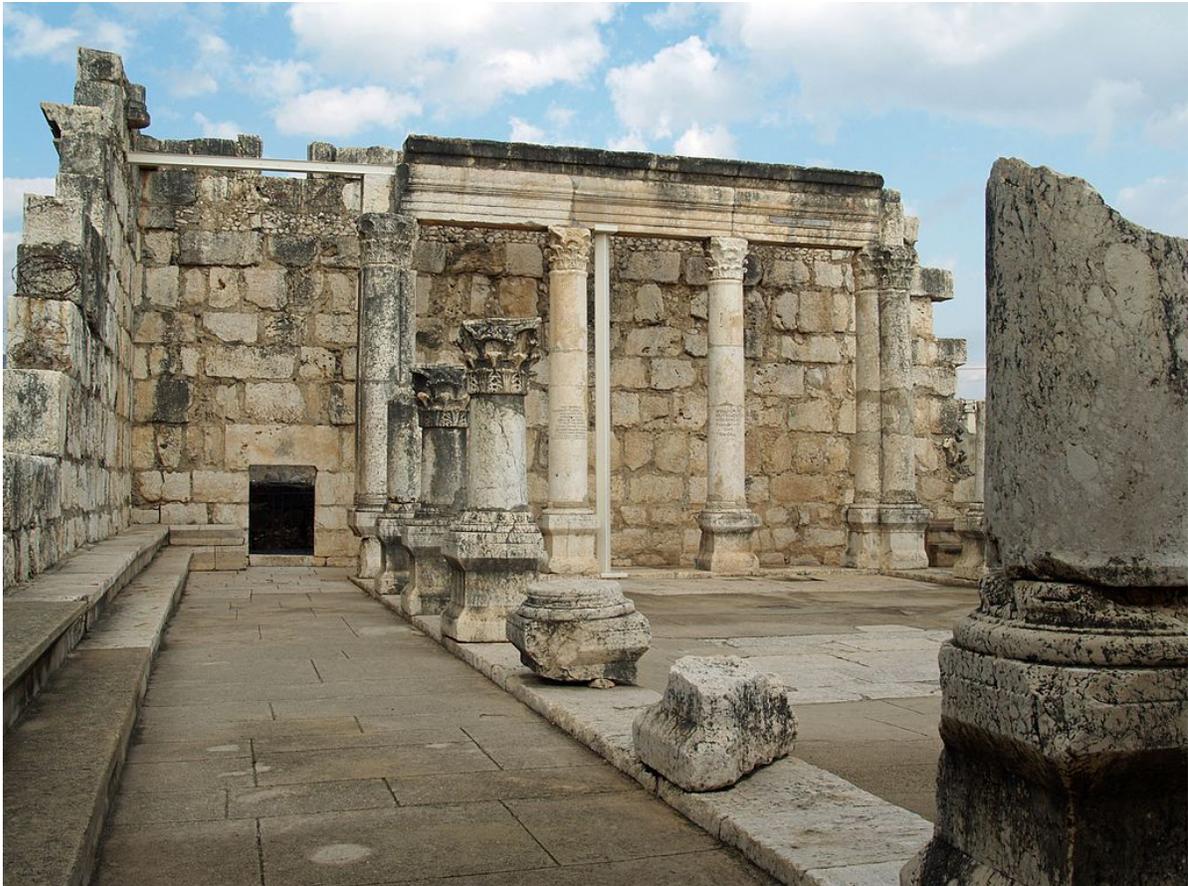
**LUKE**  
**Chapter 7**

**The Son Revealed**

**1. Read Lk 7:1-10**

- a. What was a centurion?**
- b. Who came to Jesus to ask for help?**
  - Why did they want to help this man?
  - Why didn't the centurion come himself?
- c. What did the man's message reveal about his belief (vs 6b-8)?**
- d. How did Jesus react to this man's faith?**

***This picture below is of the ruins of the synagogue in Capernaum. This synagogue was built on the site of the one dating to Jesus' time. It dates to the 4th century (300s). But it gives you an idea of what was there and what the centurion helped to build.***



**2. From Lk 7:11-17 answer the following:**

**a. Describe the situation in vs 11-12.**

- What are the implications of the statement that the deceased was “the only son of his mother?”
- As a widow what was her status?

**b. What did Jesus do? Describe what transpired in vs 14-17**

- What was significant about Jesus touching the coffin?
- How did the crowd react to the miracle?
- What was the result? (vs 17)
- How did the miracles testify about Jesus? (See also 1 King 7:23-24, Jn 3:2, 5:36, 7:31, 9:16, 30-33; Acts 2: 22)

**3. Read Lk 7:18-35 and Matt 11:1-19 and answer the following:**

**a. Why was John having second thoughts about Jesus?**

- What was going on with him (Mtt 4:12, 11:2; Lk 3:19-20, Jn 3:23-24)?
- Why might John have had questions about Jesus?

**b. How did Jesus answer John’s disciples (Lk 7:18-23)? What were they to convey to John?**

- How do we bring often view God through our own expectations?
- How can those expectations set us up for discouragement?

**4. How does Jesus view John (Lk 7:24-35)? See also Jn 10:40-42 - how did the people who believe in Jesus view John (and why)?**

**a. How did John fulfill Mal 3:1? (You might look at Mal 3:1-5 and 4:5-6 as well)**

**b. How did those who rejected John condemn themselves?**

**c. What was Jesus’ judgement regarding the people of His own generation (7:31-35)? What does He mean by this?**

**5. Finally, from Lk 7:36 - 50 answer the following questions:**

- a. What was her reputation? (Lk 7:37)**
- b. How did the pharisee see her?**
  - What did he think he knew?**
  - What did he not know that her actions toward Jesus made clear?**
- c. What was Simon's problem that Jesus confronted?**
- d. What could (or should) he have done regarding this woman?**

**For more about this see Mtt 26:6-13, Mk 14:1-11, Jn 12:1-11.**

**LUKE**  
**Chapter 8: PT 1**  
**1-39**

- 1. From 8:1-3**
  - a. Where did Jesus travel?**
  - b. What was His message?**
  - b. Who was with Him?**
  
- 2. What is the point of the parable (vs 4-15)?**
  - a. What is the seed? (How do you know?)**
  - b. The path?**
  - c. The rock?**
  - d. Thorns?**
  - e. Good soil?**
  - f. Why did Jesus speak in parables (vs 9-10)?**
  
- 3. What is the message of vs 16-18?**
  
- 4. There have been (and are) people who state that Jesus' mother and close associates have special access to Him. What is the message of vs 19-21? See Rom 2:11 and Rom 3:21-24.**
  
- 5. In 8:22-25 we read the account of Jesus' claiming of the storm.**
  - a. Why were the disciples fearful?**
  - b. What did they do that was good?**
  - c. Why were they afraid?**
    - What does this reveal about their understanding of Jesus' identity?**
    - What did it reveal to them about His identity?**
  
- 6. In 8:26-39 we read the account of the Gerasene (also called "Gadarene") demoniac.**
  - a. Describe the man's situation.**
  - b. How did he react to Jesus' presence?**
  - c. What did his "guests" repeatedly beg Jesus to not do? What's with that?**
  - d. How did Jesus resolve this situation and assert His authority?**
  - e. Why do you think that the people begged Jesus to depart?**
  - f. Finally, why did Jesus insist that the healed man remain in his home?**