

# The Gospel of Luke 1:5-56

Gabriel announces John's and Jesus' births

21 & 24 September 2023

## Structure of Luke's Gospel

- 1 Preface: Sponsor, method and purpose.
- 2 **Birth narratives: Dawn of the promised new era.**
- 3 John's mission: Introduce the Messiah.
- 4 Jesus' mission: Resist temptation and hostility.
- 5 Journey: Messianic signs and teaching. Luke 9:51
- 6 Jerusalem: Confront Israelite and Roman rulers.
- 7 Crucifixion: Last supper, arrest, trials, death.
- 8 Resurrection: Alive, appearance, and proofs.
- 9 Ascension: Gives Holy Spirit, mission to nations.

## Read Luke 1:5-7

- Herod may have died in 1 CE.
- John and Jesus were likely born between 2 BCE and 1 CE.
- Righteous in God's opinion, without law: Noah (Gen 6:9), Abraham (Gen 17:1) and Job (Job 1:1).
- The righteous by faith seek to please God.
- Priestly divisions served twice a year for two weeks. All divisions together during festivals.

## Read Luke 1:8-10

- Abijah was the eighth course, serving May 29-26 in 3 BCE. 1 Chron 24:7-18
- Since there were so many priests by 3 BCE, they were chosen by lot to serve at temple.
- A priest burned incense before the AM sacrifice and after the PM sacrifice. He entered the holy space, stoked the embers, threw incense on them, said a blessing, turned round, and left.

	1st Month	2nd Month	3rd Month
	Abib - Nisan (March - April)	Zif - Iyyar (April - May)	Sivan (May - June)
First Week	Jehoiarib (1)	Seorim (4)	<i>All Priests (Pentecost)</i>
Second Week	Jedaiah (2)	Malchijah (5)	<b>Abijah (8)</b>
Third Week	<i>All Priests (Feast of Unleavened Bread)</i>	Mijamin (6)	Jeshuah (9)
Fourth Week	Harim (3)	Hakkoz (7)	Shecaniah (10)

**Read Luke 1:11-15**

- “Angel of the LORD” in the Hebrew Bible was an audible, visible appearance of Yahweh. But here he is named Gabriel (v 19).
- Angels announce births: Gen 16:11; 17:19; Is 7:14
- “John” derives from the Hebrew name יוֹחָנָן (Yô-ḥanan) meaning “Yahweh is gracious.”
- He who names a child claims the child as his own.
- “Great” = esteemed and respected as in 2 Ki 5:1.

**Read Luke 1:15-17****Read Malachi 4:5-6 [Heb. 3:23-24]**

5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.  
6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents;  
[lest I] come and strike the land with total destruction.”

- How did Jesus know that Jerusalem would be destroyed within a life time?
- John 1:21 They asked him, “Are you Elijah?” He replied, “I am not.”
- Matthew 11:14 “If you are willing to accept it, he [John] is Elijah who is to come.”

**Read Luke 1:18-20**

- Gabriel: גַּבְרִיאֵל Gabrī'ēl, singular possessive form of the Hebrew noun גֶּבֶר (gever) meaning “man, hero”, and אֵל (Ēl), meaning “God.”
- Daniel 8:16; 9:21, “insight and understanding.”
- Four named ‘archangels’ in the Book of Enoch:  
Michael, Raphael, Gabriel and Phanuel. “These are the four angels of the Lord.” 1 Enoch 40:9-10

**Zecharia**

12 the vision's recipient is troubled  
13 do not be afraid  
13 reason for miracle  
13 child's name (John)  
15 child will be great  
15 filled with the Holy Spirit  
16-17 mission: make ready  
18 question  
19-20 proof or explanation  
20 Zechariah muted for unbelief  
80 child grows

**Mary**

29 the vision's recipient is troubled  
30 do not be afraid  
30 reason for miracle  
31 child's name (Jesus)  
32 child will be great  
35 conceived by the Holy Spirit  
32-33 mission: reign forever  
34 question  
35-37 proof or explanation  
38, 45 Mary praised for faith  
2:40, 52 child grows

**Read Luke 1:26-29**

- Virgin: Neither married nor pregnant.
- Name: מַרְיָם Maryam. From an Egyptian word meaning ‘beloved’.
- Betrothed: to Joseph, a descendant of king David.

### Read Luke 1:30-33

- 'Highly favored': perfect, passive, feminine participle, 'having been (and still) graced'.
- Will conceive and give birth to a son.
- Will call him Jesus = Joshua = Yehošuaʿ = "Yahweh saves!"
- He who names a child claims the child as his own.

### Read Luke 1:34-38

- I am a virgin: Lit., "I know no male."
- The Holy Spirit: Isa. 63:10-11 = Yahweh.
- Holy one: 'the holy thing-being-begotten', neuter ptc. ≈ perhaps anticipating *paidion*, child, servant.
- Son of God: huioi = offspring who inherits.

### Jesus in Luke 1

1. Jesus named by the Father. 31
2. Great (in semitic style, 'greatest'). 32
3. Son of the Most High. 32 A messianic title.
4. The throne of his ancestor David. 32
5. Will reign over Jacob/Israel. 33
6. His kingdom will never end. 33 from Dan 7:14
7. The Holy (child) to be born. 35
8. Will be called 'Son of God'. 35

### Read Luke 1:41-45

- Filled with the Holy Spirit: Elizabeth 1st in the NT!
- Blessed: Perf. pass. ptc., "having been approved."
- Child: Lit., 'fruit of they womb'.
- I am so favoured: Lit., 'whence to me this that...'
- Blessed: Lit., 'happy', the same blessing that Jesus pronounced over all who faithfully follow him.

### Read Luke 1:46-55 Mary's song

- Probably uttered in palestinian Aramaic.
- God my Savior: Immaculate conception doubtful.
- Call me blessed: Act. Verb = We call Mary blessed; it is not she who blesses us as co-redemptrix.
- Verb tenses: past, present and future.

### Read Luke 1:67-79 Zecharia's song

- Prophesied: The primary sign of the Holy Spirit is prophecy, to speak revealed truth forthrightly!
- Horn: Common trop for 'powerful'.
- David: the Israelite king to whom Yahweh had promised a perpetual reign over Israel.
- Prophet: There had been no authentic prophet in Israel for several centuries.
- Salvation: Forgiven sins ... path of peace.