

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)	Abijah (8)
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. ptcs., "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.