

The Gospel of Luke 2.1-52

The Messiah is born

28 September & 01 December 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.

Messianic hope in Israel

- A Davidic king.
- National sovereignty.
- Enemies subdued.
- Yahweh's Spirit active.
- Gentiles converted.
- Righteous dead resurrected.
- Eden restored.
- Universal peace and prosperity.

21 Messianic Titles

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Anointed Ps 2.2 | ● Prince Da 9.25 |
| ● Branch Is 11.1 | ● Righteous 63.11 |
| ● Cornerstone Is 19.13 | ● Root Is 11.10 |
| ● Counselor Is 9.6 | ● Ruler Mi 5.2 |
| ● David Je 30.9 | ● Scepter Nu 24.17 |
| ● God Is 9.6 | ● Seed Ge 3.15 |
| ● Holy Ps 16.10 | ● Servant Is 53.11 |
| ● King Ho 3.5 | ● Shepherd Is Ez 34.23 |
| ● Light Is 49.6 | ● Son Da 7.13 |
| ● Lord Ps 110.1 | ● Star Nu 24.17 |
| ● Messenger Ma 3.1 | |



Read Luke 2:1-4

- Census: Important for estimating taxes. Censuses were conducted by provincial governors.
- Quirinius: May have been governor twice.
- Syria: The Roman province of Syria administered Palestina (Judea, Galilee and other regions).
- Own town: Syria taxed men and women who owned property.

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Read Luke 2:5-7

- Cloths: Long cloth strips to keep limbs straight, used for 40 to 60 days.
- Manger: By the early 2nd century CE, even pagans in the area were aware of the tradition that Jesus was born in a cave used as a livestock shelter behind a home.
- Guestroom: kataluma, upper-story home with an animal shelter below.

Read Luke 2:8-11

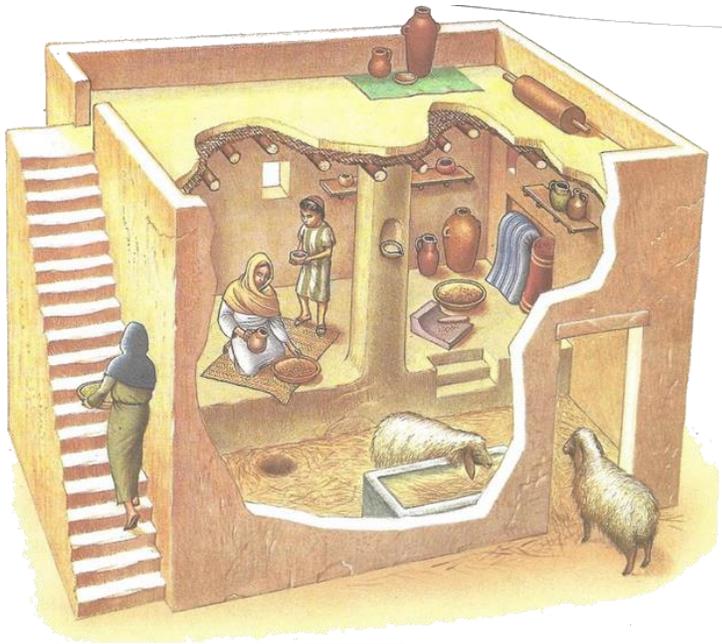
- Shepherds: Socially despised for not attending most religious events.
- Sheep: Require tending year round.
- Angel: No angels appeared for centuries.
- Today: Conceived 11 Sept 3 BCE, Jesus was born circa 17 June 2 BCE, before Herod died circa 28 January 1 BCE.
- A Savior: Good News was associated with national salvation in Isaiah 52:7.
- Messiah: "How can they say that the Christ is David's son?" Luke 20:41
- Lord: "The LORD said to my Lord..." Psalm 110:1

Messiah as Lord: In 2nd temple literature

"21 Behold, O Lord, and raise up unto them their king, the son of David, At the time in the which Thou seest, O God, that he may reign over Israel... 32 And he (shall be) a righteous king, taught of God, over them." *Psalms of Solomon* 17 (1st century BCE)

Read Luke 2:12-14

- Sign: 'Signs' were common in prophetic literature. E.g. Isa 7:14; Ezek 12:11.
- Saying: Choirs sang in worship to the roman emperors.
- Heavenly host: A variety of the 21 kinds of spiritual beings identified in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.



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Read Luke 2:17-21

- Word: “spoken ... heard ... said.”
- Jesus: Joshua = Heb. *Yehošuaʿ* (*Yešū*) = “Yahweh saves!” → Grk. *Iésous* → Yesus → Jesus → Yeshua.
- Circumcision: A distinguishing mark for priests in pagan societies. Leviticus 12:3 commands that all Israelite males be circumcised on their eighth day. Usually performed by the boy’s father.

Read Luke 2:25-27

- Consolation: God’s future intervention on behalf of Israel. Isa. 49:13; 51:3; 52:9; 66:13
- Holy Spirit:
 - (a) was on him.
 - (b) revealed to him.
 - (c) moved him.
- All Christians:
 - (a) Keep being filled with the Spirit. Eph 5:18
 - (b) Walk by the Spirit, led by Him. Gal 5:16-18

In the era of the Holy Spirit

Conversion

- Born from above. John 3: 5, 8
- You will receive the gift. Ac 2:38
- We have all been baptized. 1 Cor 12:13

Experience

- The love of God. Rom 5:5
- Speaking and serving gifts. 1 Cor 12:7
- Be filled, singing, thanking. Eph 5:18f
- Prophecy, a sign for believers. 1 Cor 14:22



“Be filled with the Spirit!”

Read Luke 2:28-32

- Sovereign Lord: Grk. *Despotés*.
- Salvation: metonymy for Savior.

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- Ethnicity:
 - (a) all nations, sight.
 - (b) Gentiles, light.
 - (c) Israel, glory.

Read Luke 2:36-38

The Prophetess Anna (Hannah)

- Born: 86 BCE
- Married 70 BCE, aged 16 (first betrothed)
- Widowed: 63 BCE, aged 23
- Baby Jesus: 2 BCE, aged 84
- Prophesied : 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses', angels, Simeon, Anna.
- 63 BCE: Rome annexed Palestine, massacred 12,000 Jews on the temple mount in Jerusalem.
- Anna remembered.

Read Luke 2:46-48

- Teachers: Go to the experts. Become informed.
- Listening: Learn their ideas, reasons and evidences.
- Querying: Explore issues as far as others can take them.
- Understanding: Explain cause-to-effect processes.
- Answers: Expose oneself to correction.

Read Luke 2:49-52

- Had to be: 'Binding' obligation (*dei* + inf.).
- Father's house: Gk. 'in my Father's things'.
- Obedient: Experienced 'real life'.
- Understanding: Analytical, explain.
- Wisdom: Reasoned moral behavior.
- Stature: Age-appropriate maturity.
- Favor: Gk. *charis*, grace, 'approval'?
- With God and man: Gk. *para* + *dat.* = near. Balanced spiritual and social life?

Assignment

- Read: Gospel of Luke 3:1–4:13
- Visit: www.luke.currah.download
- Compile: insights, queries and observations.