

The Gospel of Luke 3.1–4:13

John presents the Messiah to Israel

05 & 09 October 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.

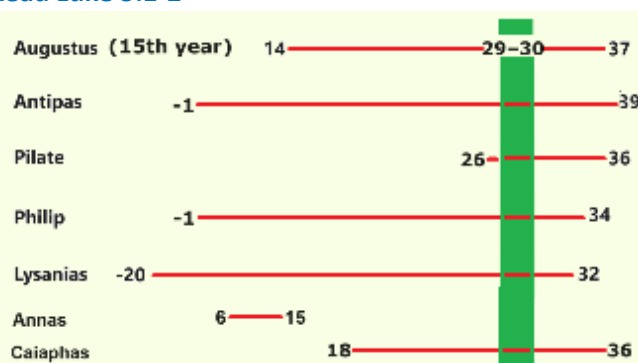
John (Yohanan) the baptizer

- Gabriel announced his conception & his name.
- Filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb.
- Righteous, elderly parents.
- From a priestly lineage.
- Grew up in the wilderness.
- Came in the 'spirit' of Elijah.
- A prophet of the Most High.
- To prepare the way for the Lord.
- Salvation by repentance & forgiveness of sins.

Luke 3.1–4:13 Major themes

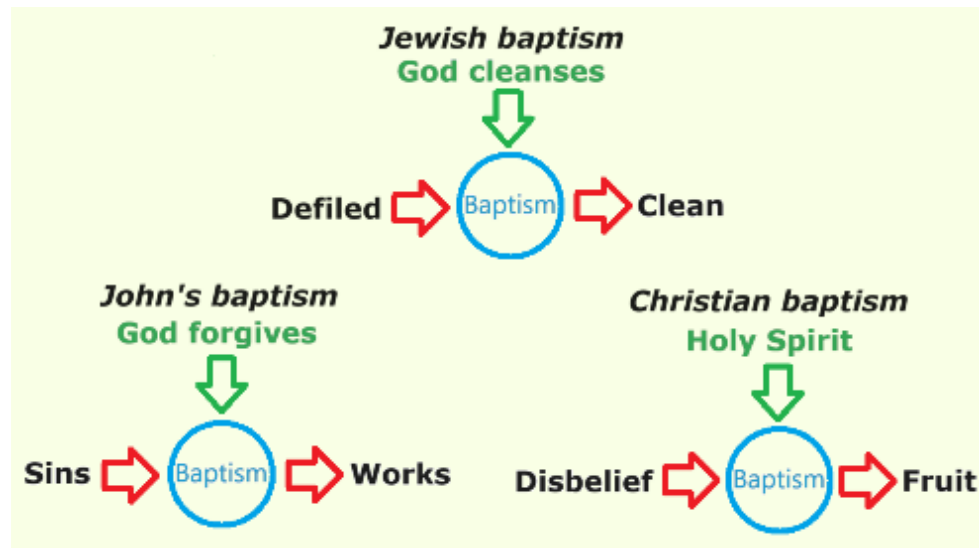
- God's wrath comes upon wicked nations.
- God forgives those who repent (who admit their wrongdoing, and who are willing to change).
- God wants to 'save' both Jews and Gentiles.
- God wants us to share with the needy, to deal truthfully with others, and to be content.
- Jesus is the Messiah (King) whom Jews were expecting to come rescue their nation.
- Jesus has brought the age of the Holy Spirit.

Read Luke 3:1-2



The Gospel of Luke 3.1–4:13

Read Luke 3:2-4



Luke 3:4-6 (Isaiah 40:3-5)

Luke quotes the Greek Septuagint version

Read Luke 3:7-8

- Vipers were commonly believed to eat their way out of their mother's womb.
- Some believed that God would save them because they were his 'chosen people'.
- However, election does not guarantee salvation!
- Greek myth of Deucalion and Pyrrha: following the flood, survivors made humans from stones.
- In Aramaic, *kephas* means stone or rock, and *kaphas* means human being or person.
- In the Hebrew Scriptures, God chose Israel as a special nation to bring Gentile nations to Him.
- In ancient times, some Gentiles became Israelites through conversion to Israel's God, Yahweh.
- In Israelite society, those who rejected Yahweh were excluded from the nation.
- In the New Testament Scriptures, all who believe in Jesus, Israel's Messiah, become God's people.

Read Luke 3:9-11

- 'thrown into the fire'. Destructive judgement. See vv. 16-17
- 'two shirts'. Outer tunic. Most poor folk would have only one tunic.
- What does love do, when it has means?

Read Luke 3:12-14

- Most people considered tax gatherers to be dishonest or traitors.
- Israelite soldiers were tax police, and Roman soldiers were foreign invaders.
- What points of God's Law was John applying to prove someone's repentance?
 - You must not steal.
 - You must not give false testimony.
 - You must love your neighbor.

The Gospel of Luke 3.1–4:13

Read Luke 3:15-16

The Holy Spirit was promised by ancient prophets:

- “I will pour my Spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your children.” Isa 44:3
- “I will no longer hide my face from them, when I pour out my Spirit on ... Israel.” Ezek 29:39
- “I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your elderly ... young men.” Joel 2:28

Baptism in/by/with the Holy Spirit

- Jesus did not baptize in the Holy Spirit until after he rose back to life.
- He baptized Jews in the Spirit in Acts 2.
- He baptized Gentiles in the Spirit in Acts 10.
- He baptized John’s disciples in the Spirit in Acts 19, when they believed in Jesus.
- Thus, ‘we have all been baptized in one Spirit ... Jews or Gentiles.’ 1 Cor. 12:13
- Keep being filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18.

Read Luke 3:16-18

- To be ‘baptized with fire’ means to fall under divine judgement.
- ‘unquenchable fire’ means to be lost forever without faith in Jesus.

Today, ‘the good news’:

- God forgives those who trust in Jesus,
- sends his Holy Spirit to live with them,
- and gives to them ever-lasting life.

Read Luke 3:21-22

- Visual bird: For what purpose?
- Vocal words: For whose benefit?
- God gave his Holy Spirit to Jesus, so that Jesus could give the Spirit to all those who put their trust in Jesus.

Read Luke 3:23-38

Greek: ²³ Jesus ... being son, as [although] he-was-being-considered (of) Joseph, of-the Heli, of-the ²⁴ Matthat, ... of-the Adam, of-the God.

Dual genealogy hypothesis

	Joseph Royal lineage	Mary Biological lineage	
Gospel of Matthew 1:1-17	Abraham Isaac Jacob ... Jesse David Solomon ... Jacob Joseph Jesus	God Adam Seth ... Jesse David Nathan ... Heli Mary Jesus	Gospel of Luke 3:23-38

The Gospel of Luke 3.1–4:13

Read Luke 4:1-4

- Does spirituality keep us free from temptation?
- Why did Jesus refuse to make bread for himself when he was hungry?

Read Luke 4:5-8

- Why did Jesus refuse the devil's offer of free 'authority and splendor'?
- What motivates billionaires, bankers and globalists to seek 'authority and splendor'?

Read Luke 4:9-13

Why not test God?

- Trust his promises!
- Fear his warnings!

Everyone is tempted by evil

- What are we to do, when we feel strongly attracted by anything that we know is wrong, or to which we have no right?

Why was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Adam=natural human	Jesus=divine man
God is Adam's Creator	God is Jesus' Father
He failed when tempted	He prevailed
We commit evil deeds	He died for our sins
We all must die	He died and rose
We repent of our evil	He has redeemed us
We have faith in Jesus	He remains faithful to us
We now have hope	He promises to raise us
We love one another	His Spirit dwells with us
We inherit God's kingdom	He reigns as King