

The Gospel of Luke 9:10-62

Messiah's natural and supernatural authority

09 & 19 November 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: Messiah's message and work.**
- 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.

Messiah's authority over the natural. 9:10-27

- He feeds 5000. 10-17
- Recognized by humans. 18-21
- Foretells his demise. 22
- Calls for radical followers. 23-27

Messiah's authority over the supernatural : 9:28-62

- He is transfigured. 28-36
- Recognized by God. 18-20
- Foretells his demise. 43-45
- Calls for radical followers. 57-62

Messiah's authority over the NATURAL world. 9:10-26

Messiah feeds 5000 Luke 9:10-17

10-11

- "He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (9:2).
- "The kingdom of God" = wherever and whenever the king reigns.
- "He spoke (message) ... and healed (demonstrated).
- "The kingdom of God is in your midst" (17:21).

12-13

- Farmers usually had excess food that they were willing to sell, or to share with relatives.
- Middle-eastern societies were usually hospitable towards travellers.

13-15

- Bread: Farmers usually grew ancient wheat for sale, and barley for consumption.
- Fish: From Lake Galilee, dried to preserve.
- “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” (John 6:9).

16-17

- How do you explain Jesus’ “Nature miracles”?
- Did Jesus violate any ‘laws of nature’?
- What did they do with the 12 baskets full of left-overs?
- What about Jesus’ share? Who fed him?

Messiah is recognized by men Luke 9:18-21

18-19

- John: Recently beheaded by king Agrippa.
- Elijah: Never died. Malichai predicted that he would return before Messiah arrived.
- Ancient prophets: Some had predicted a future resurrection of the dead.
- “Your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy—your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.”
Isaiah 26:19

20-21

- Why did Jesus pose this query?
- Why not tell anyone?
- Why not tell everybody?

Titles given in Bible to a coming one

- Messiah = Christ = Anointed one
 - Son of David = David the king
 - Messenger of the covenant
 - The Righteous one
 - The Servant of the Lord
 - The Son of Man
- See a list of 21 titles at luke.currah.download

Foretells his demise Luke 9:22

- Son of Man: Aramaic, **בַּר אֱנוֹשׁ** bar ʔenaš = ‘human being’.
- The Son of Man → Daniel 7:13-14.

Son of Man Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like* a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

* Aramaic ܕܟܝܢܐ ke = “like” (if fake) or “as” (if real).

Logic

- In the OT, “Messiah” does not suffer.
- In the OT, “Son of Man” does not suffer.
- So, how can Jesus/Luke say that the Son of Man must suffer? Luke 9:22
- So, how can Jesus/Luke say that the Messiah/Christ must suffer? Luke 24:26
- It was “The Righteous One, the Lord’s Servant” who had to suffer. Isaiah 53:11
- If A = C, and B = C, the A = B.

Radical discipleship Luke 9:23-27

- “3 to disclaim association with a person ... deny, repudiate, disown.” BDAG, Gk-En Lex.
- Deny self ≠ deny Christ.
- Start each day affirming Jesus as Lord, willing to lose anything to gain everything.
- “Others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.” Hebrews 11:35

Messiah’s authority over the SUPERNATURAL world Luke 9:28-62

Messiah is transfigured Luke 9:28-33

28-30

- This was Mount Hermon, believed to be a dwelling place of gods and spirits.
- How did they know that these were Elijah and Moses?
- What were those two prophets informing Jesus about?

31-32

- When and how did Jesus later ‘depart’?
- Why was Jesus’ ‘departure’ an important subject for Messiah to understand?
- Recall what Daniel had said about ‘the Son of Man’?
- How will Jesus connect his identity as the Son of Man with a departure, instead of with receiving an everlasting kingdom?

Since the Son of Man is also Messiah, he must suffer

1
The Lord's servant must suffer

2
Jesus learns that he must depart before he becomes king

3
Jesus' departure

4
Son of Man comes in the clouds to receive his kingdom

Moses and Elijah discuss together Jesus' departure

Messiah is recognized by God Luke 9:33-36

33-36

God spoke audibly to Jesus in public

- Jesus' baptism: "You are my beloved Son." Luke 3:22
- His transfiguration: "This is my beloved Son ...; listen to him." Luke 9:35
- Before his death: "I will glorify [my name] again." John 12:28-30

43-45

- 'Into the hands' = put under the power.
- Why was this so hard to understand?

51, 57-58

- Jesus 'departure': "to be taken up to heaven." Acts 1:9-11
- Until: Jesus will arrive back from heaven to become king of the whole world.
- Follow: Learn from, obey instructions, imitate, even die young unjustly.
- Lay (*klinō*) head: 'He said, "It is finished." Then he bowed [*klinō*] his head and gave up his spirit.'

John 19:30

59-60

African brothers explained this text to me:

- Bury parents: "This remains a filial duty. One who did not care for his aging parents would be shamed by his community."
- Go proclaim: "This must be an important task, worth risking an inheritance and one's reputation."

61-62

- What will family members say to dissuade you from risking health and wealth to go carry the Gospel to an unreached people?
- What is a modern trope that means "to put a hand to a plow and look back"?
- Have you made a vow to the Lord that you have not yet fulfilled?
- Could you give a year or two, serving a Christian ministry, before too late?

Discover

- Truths to affirm?
- Promises to claim?
- Commands to obey?

Assignment

- Read: Luke 10:1–11:13
- Visit: luke.currah.download
- Compile: insights, queries & observations.