

The Gospel of Luke
– An Overview –

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(boring but important)

What is a gospel?

What is a gospel?

‘euangelion’

= evangelical

= evangelism

Matthew ^A

Mark [?]

Luke [?]

John ^A

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Synoptic

Synoptic

Syn = together

Optic = view

Mark + ? 'Q'
=
Matthew & Luke

Can we trust
the gospels?

2 criteria:

- how near to the events they were written
- how many copies still survive

Plato

- 427-347 BC, Athens
- Less than **10** surviving copies of his writings
- Oldest **1400** years later

Tacitus

- 100 AD , Rome
- 8 surviving copies
- Oldest 1100 AD (1000 years later)

Homer

- wrote the Illiad 900 BC
- 643 copies
- Oldest copy 10th-C AD
- (over 2000 years)

And the
winner is ...?

The New Testament

➤ Written 40 – 100 AD

The New Testament

- Written 40 – 100 AD
- oldest copies within 30 – 50 years

The New Testament

- Written 40 – 100 AD
- oldest copies within 30 – 50 years
- how many copies?

24,000 +

When were the
gospels written?

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eye witnesses and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. Luke 1

The gospels in their biblical context

1. Creation	5. Judges
2. Patriarchs	6. Kingdom
[Silence – 400 years]	7. Exile
3. Exodus	8. Return
4. Conquest	9. Silence [400 years]

- Birth of a baby boy
- Miraculous delivery
- Miraculous birth
- Deliverer / Saviour

- Moses = 'draw out'
- Jesus = 'The Lord saves'

Scripture –
a divine / human
partnership

Choice & arrangement of material

Luke – a gospel of 2 halves

The Coming (1:1 – 9:50)

➤ The Transfiguration (9:28-36)

The Going (9:51 – 24:53)

➤ The Ascension (24:50-53)

Themes in Luke

The supernatural

- Holy Spirit
- Angelic visitations
- Miraculous births
- Demonic deliverance
- Miraculous healings
- Miracles of nature

Themes in Luke

- Birth (16)
- Conflict (14)
- Calling / Sending (6)
- Teaching (24)
- Parables (28)
- Death (15)

Parables in Luke

- 28 – the most of any gospel
[Matthew – 21, Mark – 8, John – 0]
- 17 unique
- 7 shared with Matthew & Mark
- 4 shared with Matthew

*... I myself have
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beginning ...*

Luke 1:3

story patterns in Luke 1 & 2

1:5-25	Zechariah in the Temple
1:26-38	An angel visits Mary
1:39-56	Mary visits Elizabeth ('Magnificat')
1:57-66	The birth and naming of John
1:67-80	Zechariah's prophecy
2:1-7	The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem
2:8-21	Angels visit shepherds
2:22-35	Simeon's prophecy
2:36-40	Anna's prophecy
2:41-52	The boy Jesus in the Temple

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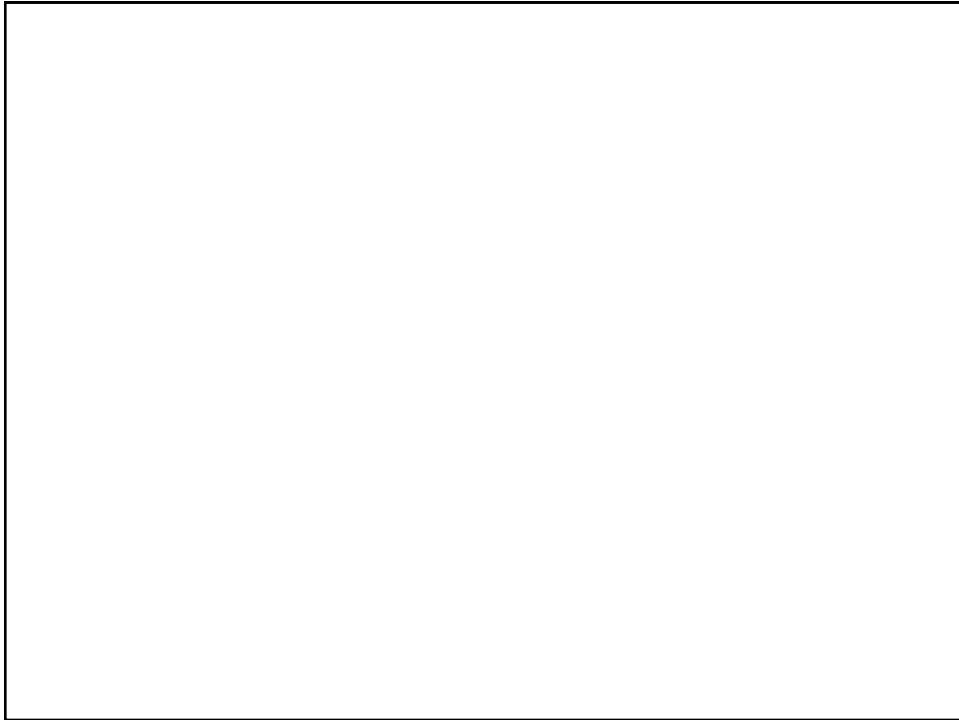
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<p>1. Zechariah in the Temple (1:5-25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An old man in the temple • Question: miraculous parenthood? • Zechariah's disbelief 	<p>10. The boy Jesus in the Temple (2:41-52)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young boy in the temple • Question: supernatural parentage? • Mary & Joseph's bewilderment
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<p>4 & 5. birth of John / Zechariah's prophecy (1:57-80)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family tradition deliberately broken at the birth • naming and circumcision of John 	<p>6 & 7. birth of Jesus/ Angels visit shepherds (2:1-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family tradition carefully maintained at the birth • naming and circumcision of Jesus
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<p>2 & 3. Angel Mary / Elizabeth (1:26-56)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary's joy at the incarnation • the words of Gabriel and Elizabeth • the timing of Mary's visit to Elizabeth 	<p>8 & 9. Simeon / Anna (2:22-40)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary's anguish at the cross • the words of Simeon and Anna • the timing of Mary's visit to the temple
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²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Exodus 2

¹ Among the many records of the extraordinary things that have happened in our days, ² reported by the original eyewitnesses, ³ mine is the result of painstaking research to ensure that what I write is accurate and faithful. So this is for you, my dear Theophilus, ⁴ to reassure you that what you have been told really happened.

⁵ In the days when Herod was the Roman Empire's puppet-king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. ⁶ He and his wife Elizabeth were godly people and lived out the Jewish Law faithfully. ⁷ The only thing missing from their lives was a child and at their age they knew all hope of being parents had gone.

*8-9 The priests drew lots to see who would burn incense in the Temple, and one day, a day like any other, Zechariah was chosen for this duty. ¹⁰ People were gathered outside as usual, praying. ¹¹ Without warning an angel appeared in the temple. ¹² Zechariah nearly jumped out of his skin with fright, ¹³ but the angel said, 'It's all right, Zechariah, there's nothing to fear. **God has heard your prayers.** Elizabeth will have a baby boy; name him John.*

God sees
God hears
God has concern