

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Luke's Unique Perspective

Luke 1: 1-4

Introduction: This Sunday marks the beginning of a new expository series on the Gospel of Luke. Throughout this series we will note the uniqueness of Luke's perspective on the life of Jesus Christ and the underlying message of hope that it gives to all who believe.

- I. Luke's Own Introduction (1: 1-4)
 - A. Based on eyewitness testimony.
 - B. Completely investigated and corroborated.
 - C. Chronological; a historical document.
 - D. Declared to be a reliable source of truth.

- II. Unique Features About Luke's Gospel
 - A. Purposes and circumstances of writing
 1. Written about 60-70 A.D.
 2. Eschatological hope is waning
 3. Written to bring hope and comfort
 - B. Historical versus Biographical
 1. Matthew's, Mark's, and John's gospels follow a biographical style and focus on the Person of interest.
 2. Luke follows a historical style and focuses on the events.
 - C. Luke writes a two volume history (two scrolls approximately 33 to 40 ft. ea.)
 1. Volume 1: From Christ's Birth to the Cross and His Resurrection
 2. Volume 2: From Christ's Ascension to the evangelization of the Roman Empire.
 - D. Events depicted in Luke prove that God is actively involved in the course of human history.

- III. Special Emphasis in Luke's Gospel
 - A. Jesus is the "Son of Man," and Luke traces his genealogy back to Adam.
 - B. Luke selects events that particularly highlight Jesus' compassion on the "down-and-out," and the "insignificant" of society.
 - C. Luke wants to bring hope and assurance that God does not forget His promises.
 - D. Luke particularly highlights the role of women in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Conclusion: Zacharias' prophecy at the end of Chapter One (vs. 67-79) looks back over four hundred years to the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy made in Chapter 4, verses 1 through 6:

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff, and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. ³ You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts.

⁴ "Remember the law of Moses My servant, *even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.* ⁵ Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. ⁶ He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³ it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; ⁴ so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.
Luke 1: 1-4 (NASB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) While viewed by Biblical scholars as one of the three synoptic gospels, what makes Luke's gospel truly unique among the accounts of the life of Christ? Explain.
- 2.) What (or who) was Luke's "target audience" for his gospel account?
- 3.) In the next two or three weeks make a special effort to read all 24 chapters of Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. As you do so, make note of those passages where Luke speaks especially to the fulfillment of our hopes in Jesus. However, as of now, what do you think might be an example of how Luke's account is the fulfillment of our hope through Jesus Christ?
- 4.) What is the primary difference between Luke's historical account versus the other gospels' biographical accounts? What do you think was the purpose of Luke's unique historical perspective?
- 5.) As Pastor Paul preaches through the Gospel of Luke, what do you expect to gain from this?

NOTES
