

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: God's Promise for All Peoples

Led by Jim Boyce, Roseville Lutheran Church

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The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus in a unique and captivating way. As Luke tells the story faith is not so much a possession as a journey of discovery and discipleship. Touched by God's grace, the lives of God's people, and our lives, intersect with others and the world in which we live in surprising ways. As we explore the special themes of Luke's narrative we will see the way each of our faith stories is continually shaped by our hearing of this story within a community of faith and within an expectant world.

## Session 1: "Righteousness Reimagined"—The Birth of Jesus. Luke, Chapters 1-2

### Author's Preface: A Puzzling Note (Luke 1:1-4)

## "For You, A Savior: The Gospel of Luke"

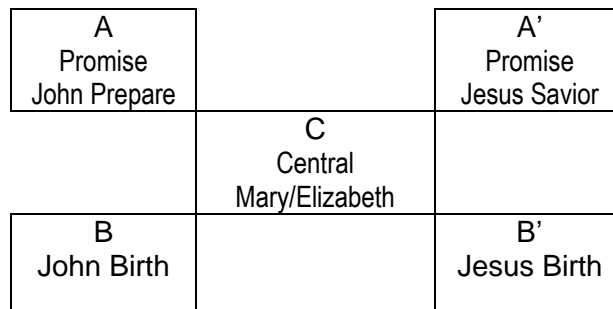
### OUTLINE OF LUKE

I.	Preface: Statement of purpose: 1:1-4	<i>That you may know the truth...1.4</i>
II.	Birth and Infancy Narrative: 1:5-2:52	<i>Today a Savior born for you...2.11</i>
III.	Preparation for Ministry: 3:1-4:13 John / Baptism/ Genealogy/ Temptation	<i>All flesh shall see God's Salvation...3.6</i>
IV.	Ministry in Galilee: 4:14-9:50	<i>Anointed to bring good news...4.18</i>
V.	Journey to Jerusalem - "Lukan Travel Narrative": 9:51-19:48	<i>His face set for Jerusalem...9.51</i>
VI.	Ministry in Jerusalem before Passion: 20-21	<i>The kingdom of God is near...21.31</i>
VII.	Passion and Death. 22-23	<i>Truly, this man was righteous...23:47</i>
VIII..	Resurrection Narrative: 24	<i>Forgiveness for all nations...24.47</i>

### THEMES OF LUKE

- **Righteousness** re-imagined (4x in chap 1 & 2)
- **Salvation** as the keyword of promise (7x in chap 1 & 2)
- **Today** is the day of salvation (2.11; 4.21; 19.5 & 9)
- The **necessity** of God's promises ("it is necessary" 18x in gospel)
  
- The presence and **power of the Spirit**
- For **Witness** and Mission
- **Message**: God raised Jesus from the dead
- The Promise of God is **for all peoples**
- A **new community** breaks down walls of division  
(the poor, the oppressed, the outcast, are the special objects of God's mercy)

### Births of John and Jesus: An Artful & Deliberate Structure & Message



## **OUTLINE: Birth and Infancy Narrative (1:5-2:52)**

### **JOHN THE BAPTIST (21 verses)**

Dating 1:5  
Setting & Characters 1:5-7  
Announcement by Angel 1:8-13  
**NAME**(John="God's gracious gift") 1:13  
**HYMN** (Angel) 1:14-17  
"How will I know this?" 1:18  
Sign 1:19-22  
Response 1:23-25

### **JESUS (13 verses)**

Dating 1:26  
Setting & Character 1:27  
Announcement by Angel 1:26-31  
**NAME** (Jesus="the Lord is Savior")1:31  
**HYMN** (Angel) 1:32-33  
"How will this be?" 1:34  
Sign 1:35-37  
Response 1:38

### **CENTRAL INTERLUDE 1:39-56 (18 vs)**

Elizabeth & Mary  
At greeting baby leaps in womb  
**HYMN** ("Magnificat") 1:47-55

### **BIRTH OF JOHN (24 verses)**

Dating: Time fulfilled 1:57  
Birth of John 1:57-58 (brief)  
  
**NAMING** (circumcision) 1:59-64  
Response/Expectation  
"What will this child be?" 1:65-66  
**HYMN** ("Benedictus") 1:67-79  
Child grew / strong in spirit 1:80

### **BIRTH OF JESUS (52 verses)**

Dating (precise dating) 2:1  
Birth of Jesus 2:1-20 (greatly expanded)  
Announcement by angels  
**HYMN** - Glory to God in Highest  
Response of shepherds - worship  
Response of Mary - kept in heart  
**NAMING** (circumcision) 2:21  
Response/ Expectation - Simeon & Anna  
"What will this child be?" 2:22-38  
**HYMN** ("Nunc Dimittis") 2:29-32  
Child grew/strong in wisdom/favor of God  
2:40  
Epilogue:Example from Jesus' boyhood 2:41-51  
"increase in wisdom/stature/favor with God and human beings" 2:52

## **The Gospel of Luke - Selections: Part I**

### **I. Preface**

**1** Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup>just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, <sup>3</sup>I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

### **II. Birth & Infancy**

**5** In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** Both of them were righteous

before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. **7** But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

**14** You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15** for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. **16** He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a

virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

46 And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
50 His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:  
68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,  
70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.  
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us<sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.  
78 By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**2:8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."