INTRODUCTION

- If anyone has doubts about the validity or historical reliability of the New Testament, study the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts
- Luke, a physician, was meticulous with details in both of his books
- Luke’s Gospel and Book of Acts accurately identify more than 100 historical names & places, including the water depth near a harbor

So, if he is accurate with his secular details, it stands to reason when he states that a miracle happened it has the same reliability
- Also, Luke doesn’t embellish his stories, and he even records unpleasant events about his characters, which gives more credibility
- Luke was a co-worker and a dear friend to the Apostle Paul. Paul called Luke “a dearly loved physician” (Col 4:14). Near the end of Paul’s life, we are told “only Luke” was with him (2 Tim 4:11)

Passage | Comments
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**Luke 1:1-4**
**Dedication to Theophilus**
- Luke apparently was a Gentile convert who wrote to another Gentile convert, Theophilus, to help confirm his faith with the facts of Jesus being God in the flesh
- Luke tracked down the original sources of information (over 500 eyewitnesses were available – 1Cor 15:6)

**Side Note:**
**We Do Not Have Blind Faith**
- The Christian faith is not a blind faith. Unlike every religion in the world, including atheism, our faith is based on substance – reliable historical and scientific evidence.

**Historical Fact #1.** We have more historical evidence that Jesus lived (10 sources) than we do of Jesus’ contemporary, Tiberius Caesar (only 4 historical sources)

**Scientific Fact #1.** Mathematical probability of just 10 out of 365 Messianic prophecies being fulfilled and referring to anyone else other than Jesus Christ is nil

**Scientific Fact #2.** Cosmic and teleological arguments and evidence for a logical design of the universe and for life on earth give credence to God’s existence (Srb: “I don’t have Enough Faith to be an Atheist”, Geisler & Turek)

1:5-25
**Gabriel Foretells John’s Birth to Zechariah**
- Zechariah, a Levitical priest, had the duty to burn incense in the sanctuary, Gabriel popped in to say Hi
- Zechariah was “chosen by lot” signifies God even controls the roll of the dice................. Proverbs 16:33
- John the Baptist was going to be special from birth, as he was filled with the Holy Spirit while still in the womb

1:67-80
**Zechariah’s Prophecy**
- Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke of God’s intended blessings and salvation for Jews and Gentiles
- v80. The end result of these prophecies is that John the Baptist would mature and grow spiritually strong, to lead many people, including us, to grow spiritually too

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God chooses to use regular people such as Mary, Joseph, Luke, Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Theophilus, and you and me to accomplish great things for the Kingdom from sharing His truth to raising the next generation.

NEXT WEEK:

**Genesis 30-31.** It’s time for Jacob to take his wives and 12 sons back to his homeland, but not without more drama.