

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 06 Dec 2020	Luke 1:1-25	Planned
2) 13 Dec	Luke 1:26-80	Conceived
3) 20 Dec	Luke 2:1-19	Proclaimed
4) 27 Dec	Luke 2:20-40	Anticipated
5) 03 Jan 2021	Luke 2:41-52	Matured
6) 10 Jan	Luke 3:1-38	Prepared
7) 17 Jan	Luke 6:27-49	Compassionate
8) 24 Jan	Luke 4:1-44	Rejected
9) 31 Jan	Luke 5:1-16; 27-39	Followed
10) 07 Feb	Luke 5:17-26	Forgives
11) 14 Feb	Luke 6:1-26	Reigns
12) 21 Feb	Luke 7:1-50	Loved
13) 28 Feb	Luke 9:1-62	Unashamed

**INTRODUCTION**

- As we celebrate this Christmas, we are one more year closer to the Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
- It is interesting God got things rolling for the Lord's 1<sup>st</sup> coming as His people were praying in His House of Prayer ..... **Luke 1:10**
- 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 identified more than 100 historical names & places, including the water depth near a harbor
- So, if he is accurate with 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 enhances 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
Luke 1:1-4	<p><b>Dedication to Theophilus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Luke tracked down the original sources of information (over 500 eyewitnesses were available – <b>1Cor 15:6</b>)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Can you imagine spending maybe a full day or more with Mary, the mother of Jesus, to "investigate" as many details as possible for the first 3 chapters so the "exact truth" may be made known</li> <li>♦ What kind of questions would you ask of Mary?</li> <li>♦ Who else would know of such intimate knowledge if it wasn't Mary?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Side Note: We Do Not Have Blind Faith	<p>The Christian faith is not a blind faith. Unlike every other religion in the world, including atheism, our faith is based on substance – reliable historical and scientific evidence.</p> <p><b>Historical Fact #1.</b> We have more historical evidence that Jesus lived (10 sources) than we do of Jesus' contemporary, Tiberius Caesar (only 4 historical sources)</p> <p><b>Scientific Fact #1.</b> Mathematical probability of just 10 out of 365 Messianic prophecies being fulfilled and referring to anyone else other than Jesus Christ is nil</p> <p><b>Scientific Fact #2.</b> Cosmological and teleological arguments and evidence for a logical design of the universe and for life on earth give credence to God's existence (Src: "I don't have Enough Faith to be an Atheist", Geisler &amp; Turek)</p>
1:5-6	<p><b>Gabriel Foretells John's Birth to Zacharias</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zacharias, a Levitical priest, had the duty to burn incense in the sanctuary. Gabriel popped in to say Hi.</li> <li>• v6 Zacharias and Elizabeth walked blamelessly in ALL the commandments. Can we walk blamelessly?</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:9-17	<p><b>John the Baptist (JTB) Would be Special from Birth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even his name, John, was prescribed for Him (v13)</li> <li>• He would be great in the sight of God (v15)</li> <li>• He would be a teetotaler (v15)</li> <li>• He would be filled with the Spirit within the womb (v15)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Does this mean John was saved in the womb? In all probability – YES. Does this make God a respecter of persons (<b>Rom 2:11</b>)? – NO! God has the right to choose the Israelites over all other nations; and He has the prerogative to select others for special missions even from birth (e.g., Jacob over Esau; Samuel, and JTB)</li> <li>♦ Being a respecter of persons deals with unjust prejudice (e.g, preferring one race over another; the rich over the poor; or the wicked over the righteous)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v9. Zacharias was "chosen by lot" signifies God even controls the roll of the dice ..... <b>Proverbs 16:33</b></li> <li>• v10. "And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering"</li> <li>• v11. Incense was burned twice a day in the temple, in the morning &amp; evening. Incense signifies the prayers of the saints ..... <b>Ex 30:7-8; Ps 141:2; Rev 8:3-4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This probably occurred on the Sabbath day, since there was such a multitude of people together;</li> <li>♦ "I will bring them to My holy mountain &amp; make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar" ..... <b>Is 56:7</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v17. JTB would NOT be a reincarnated Elijah, but would come in like fashion – "in the spirit &amp; power of Elijah"                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ One noticeable difference between Elijah and JTB, is that JTB didn't perform any supernatural miracles, yet JTB, like Elijah, got people to seriously think about God</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:18-25	<p><b>Zacharias Asked for Proof – and Reaped Silence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v18. "How will I know"? This seemed like an honest question anyone of us would ask. Mary asked a similar question, "How will this be"? (v34) and she was given an adequate answer. Most scholars lean toward Zacharias expressed his unbelief while Mary expressed curiosity.</li> </ul>
Who was Gabriel?	<p>Though commonly spoken of as an Archangel, he is not called such in Scripture. He appears in the apocryphal Book of Enoch (Chaps 9, 20, 40) as one of 4 chief angels. Gabriel is only mentioned 4x in the Bible. Twice in Daniel and twice in Luke as a messenger of historical news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Daniel 8:16; 9:21.</b> Gabriel was commissioned to explain to Daniel the vision of the ram and the he-goat, and to give the prediction of the 70 weeks</li> <li>• <b>Luke 1:19, 26.</b> He announces to Zacharias the birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary the birth of Jesus</li> <li>• Other named angels in the Bible include Michael the Archangel (<b>Dan 10, 12, Jud, Rev 12</b>) and Satan/Lucifer</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- God chooses to use regular people such as Mary, Joseph, Luke, Zacharias, 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: Luke 1:26-80.** Gabriel foretells Jesus' birth to Mary and John the Baptist is born

