

1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

“The fact that Luke used written and oral accounts does not deny the verbal inspiration of what he wrote. It simply means that the Holy Spirit guided him in the choice and arrangement of his materials.” BBC

The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 1

Chapter One - Verses 1-19

Luke's Introduction

Chapter 1, Verses 1-4 - Luke Explains why he is writing this Gospel.

1. The writer of this gospel was Luke (who also wrote the book of Acts). He was a **Gentile** (Non-Jew), a physician, and the first historian of the Christian church.
2. The Gospel of Luke was written about 60 years after the **death** of Jesus Christ.
3. Luke wanted the life and ministry of Jesus Christ preserved in accurate writing for **future** Christians.
4. Because truth was important to Luke, he relied heavily on **eyewitness** accounts. - LASB



Luke writes in verse 1 that the events of the ministry of Jesus were '*most surely believed*' by the early Christians. This tells us that the stories of Jesus were actual **events** that happened and people saw it with their own **eyes**!

John's Parents

Chapter 1, Verses 5-12: - Luke introduces us to the parents of John the Baptist.

1. John's parents were Zacharias (means *the Lord remembers*) a priest and Elizabeth (means *the oath of God*).
2. John's parents lived during the time when Herod, **wicked** King, ruled Judea.
3. John's parents lived an obedient life, that **pleased** God.
4. Zacharias and Elizabeth had no **children**. This was a huge embarrassment for a Jewish couple.
5. John's father, Zacharias, worked in the **temple**, serving the Lord.
6. Incense was burned in the Temple twice daily. When the people saw the smoke from the burning incense, they **prayed**.
7. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolized their prayers going **up** to God's throne.



Zacharias and Elizabeth lived with the humiliation of not having any children and they also lived under the power of a wicked government, but they still were **faithful** to God and they were **blessed** by God!



Zacharias and Elizabeth didn't merely go through the motions in following God's laws; they backed up their outward compliance with inward obedience. Unlike the religious leaders whom Jesus called hypocrites, Zachariah and Elizabeth obedience was from the **heart**. - LASB

Angel Appears

Chapter 1, Verses 11-17 - The Angel Gabriel announces the birth of John the Baptist.

1. The Angel Gabriel appeared before the priest Zacharias in the holy place of the **temple** when the people were praying.
2. The Angel Gabriel's appearance **scared** Zacharias, but the angel reassured him that his prayers had been answered.
3. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that a **son** would be born to Elizabeth and his name will be John.
4. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son will be **great** in the sight of the Lord.
5. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would not drink **wine** or strong drink.
6. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would be **filled** with the Holy Ghost, from the time of his birth.
7. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would turn many people of Israel **back** to their God.
8. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would have the spirit and **power** of Elijah.
9. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would get people **ready** for the Lord.



John the Baptist was *great in the sight of the Lord*, and that is the only kind of greatness that really **matters**.



John the Baptist was filled with God's Spirit so he can fulfill his special mission. We also need the Holy Spirit's **help** to do God's work effectively.

Zach Doubts

Chapter 1, Verses 18-19: - Zacharias has a hard time believing the Angel Gabriel.

1. Zacharias did not **believe** the Angel Gabriel's promise that he would have a son.
2. Zacharias thought both he and his wife were too **old** to become the parents of a child.
3. Zacharias wanted the Angel Gabriel to give him **evidence** to prove he would have a son.
4. The Angel Gabriel becomes very **angry** with Zacharias.



When we look at our physical situation, it is easy to **doubt**, but with God, all things are possible!



If you are waiting for God to answer some request or to fill some need, remain **patient**. No matter how impossible God's promises may seem, what he has said in his Word will come true at the right time. - LASB

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

“The name John means “the Lord is gracious” and the name Jesus means “Savior”. Both names were given by God and not chosen by the parents. Throughout the Gospels, God acts graciously and gives salvation to His people. He will not withhold it from anyone who sincerely comes to Him.”

LASB