

The Birth of Jesus

As Told By Luke



Luke's Introduction (1:1-4)

- His goal: to write an accurate account of the gospel
- His reason: “so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught”

Luke's Introduction (1:1-4)

- Luke's presentation invites us to compare and contrast
 - Zacharias & Mary
 - Elizabeth & Mary
- Not to demean but highlight

The Setting – Scene Two (26)

- Six months later...
- Nazareth in Galilee
 - *City* (walled); Pop. 400 ~ 15,000
 - Gentile rule / pagan temples
 - Today: “The Arab capital of Israel”

The Setting – Scene Two (26)

- Nazareth in Galilee
 - 70 miles NE of Jerusalem, halfway to Tyre & Sidon
 - Corrupt and vile (unholy place, cf. 11)
 - “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46)

The Characters (26)

- Gabriel (1:11-20)
- Joseph (*may God add* – Gen. 30:24)
 - Of the descendants of David (1:27)
 - Matt. 1-2 – righteous, considerate, obedient

The Characters (26)

- Mary (Miriam: *rebellion*)
 - A virgin (2x) (cf. 1:34)
 - Of the descendants of David (3:31)
 - A thinker (1:29; 2:19, 51)
 - Knew OT and theology (cf. 1:46-55)

The Story (28-45)

- Gabriel greets Mary (28) (Zacharias?)
 - “Grace to you, who are endued with grace. The Lord is with you.”
 - *Object of favor* (cf. Eph. 1:6)
 - Prov. 3:1-4; 31-35; Ps. 15

The Story (28-45)

- Gabriel greets Mary (28) (Zacharias?)
 - “Grace to you, who are endued with grace. The Lord is with you.”
 - Statement of her character
 - Approved by God to mother His Son

The Story (28-45)

- Gabriel greets Mary (28) (Zacharias?)
- Mary is very troubled by his greeting
 - (Zach. troubled by the angel - 1:12)
 - Ponder: *to reason, deliberate*
 - Trying to make sense of it

The Story (28-45)

- Gabriel delivers his message (30)
 - Do not be afraid (30; 13)
 - For you have found favor with God
 - Noah (Gen. 6:5-8); Samuel (1 Sam. 2:26); Jesus (2:40, 52)

The Story (28-45)

- Gabriel delivers his message (30)
 - The promise of a son (31; 13)
 - Conceive and bear (human)
 - Jesus (*Jehovah is help/salvation*)

The Promise of a Son

- Jesus (*Jehovah is help/salvation*)
 - He will be great (32, 15)
 - Son of the Most High (God)
 - The throne of His father David (king)
 - Reign forever (33)

The Story (28-45)

- Mary doesn't understand (34; 18)
- Gabriel explains (35-37; 19-20)
 - Holy Spirit & power of the Most High
 - “Will not be impossible with God every word” (37, 20)

The Story (28-45)

- Mary accepts (38; 18)
 - Her attitude: *bondslave*
 - “According to your word” (see 37)
 - Blessed is she who believed (45, 20)
 - Irony: Disgrace? (24-25)

The Story (28-45)

- Mary visits Elizabeth (39-40)
- Elizabeth blesses Mary (41-45)
 - Blessed are you among women (42)
 - Blessed is the fruit of your womb (42)
 - Blessed is she who believed (45, 20)

The *Magnificat* (46-55)

- Mary blesses God
 - Theme: the greatness of God and the lowliness of man
 - God honors and exalts those who humble themselves before Him

The Story – Scene Three (56-80)

- Three months later... (56)
- John is born (57)
- John is named (58-63)
- Zacharias speaks! (64)
- People are in awe (65-66)

The Story (56-80)

- Zacharias blesses God (67-75)
 - Theme: God fulfills His word (*18-20)
 - Redemption and restoration
- Zacharias blesses John (76-79)
 - Reiterates Gabriel's words (17)

The Story (56-80)

- Closing/summary (80)
 - Compare 2:40, 51 (cf. 1 Sam. 2:26)
 - Invites us to continue to compare & contrast into Chap. 2

So What?

- Am I pursuing godly character?
 - True humility, God's wisdom, *the fear of the Lord*
- Whose agenda am I following?
 - Do I see myself as God's bonds slave?

So What?

- As we celebrate Christmas, consider what God has done for you through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
 - All of it is important!
 - It stands or falls together