

{42} Luke

Chapter 1

(1) Since many have attempted to write an orderly account of those things which we most surely believe,
 (2) Even as they delivered them to us, who were from the beginning eye witnesses,^a 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 to you in {chronological} order this account, most excellent Theophilus {friend of God},^b
 (4) That you might know the certainty of those things, in which you have been instructed.
 (5) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zachariah {Jehovah has remembered}, of the course of Abijah:^c and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth {God of the covenant}.^d

(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 Elisabeth was barren, and they both were *now* well advanced 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 outside at the time of incense.
 (11) And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
 (12) And when Zachariah saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Note: many scholars assume that Luke was a Gentile. According to Romans 3:1-2 the scriptures were entrusted to the Jews. Some early historians say that Luke was one of the seventy that Jesus sent out. This fits with Luke 1 and Acts 1 which show that Luke was not present at Jesus' baptism, but probably joined the disciples shortly thereafter. Internal evidence suggests that not only was Luke a Jew, but even very likely a Levitical priest [as well as a physician] – consider his knowledge of the priestly duties in chapter 1 and his detailed knowledge of the Law in chapter 2. He records medical details of some of Jesus' miracles that none of the other gospel writers record suggesting he was actually present when they were performed. See note on Acts 21:29.

1:2a - eyewitnesses - see for self - *autoptas*{αὐτόπτης} [word we get autopsy from]

1:3b – Theophilus {θεοφιλε} – friend of God – See Acts 1:1

1:5c – Zechariah {Gr. ζαχαρίας}{Heb.- זכריה} - {Jehovah has remembered} [Zec. 1:1] - course

of Abijah – David divided the descendants of Levi into 24 courses – I Chr. 23:6 – The course of Abijah was the eighth {the Lord's number} course [IChr. 24:10] – Abijah was descended from Eleazar, Aaron's oldest son. – see “Use of Numbers in Scripture” at www.TheWordNotes.com

1:5d – Elisabeth {ελισαβετ} – from Hebrew {אלישבע} – God of the covenant – Elisabeth [Ex. 6:23] was the wife of Aaron and the name was common to the Jews - note that Elisabeth was also a descendant of Aaron, Moses' brother

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(13) But the angel said to him, Do not be afraid, Zachariah: because your prayer has been heard; and your wife Elisabeth shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name John {Gracious}.^e

(14) And you shall have joy and gladness; and many will rejoice at his birth.

(15) Because he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and will drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

(16) And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

(17) And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah,^f 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 Zachariah said to the angel, How shall I know this? Because I am an old man and my wife well advanced in years.

(19) And the angel answering said to him, I am Gabriel {man of God},^g who stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak to you, and to declare to you this good news.

(20) And, indeed, you shall be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

(21) And the people waited for Zachariah, and marveled that he stayed so long in the temple.

(22) And when he came out, he could not speak to them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: because he motioned to them, and remained speechless.

(23) And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministry were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

(24) And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

(25) In this way the Lord has dealt with me in the days in which He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among men.

(26) And in the sixth month^h the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

(27) To a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary.ⁱ

(28) And the angel came in to her, and said, Hail, *you who are* highly favored, the Lord is with you: blessed *are* you among women.

(29) And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and wondered in her mind what manner of greeting this should be.

(30) And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary: because you have found favor with God.

1:13e - John {Ἰωάννης} from Hebrew {יְהוֹנָן} – Gracious

1:17f – II Ki. 1:8; Mat. 3:4; Mk. 1:6; Mat 11:14; Mat. 17:12; Mk. 9:13

1:19g - Gabriel {גַּבְרִיאֵל} - man of God - Dan. 8:16; 9:21

1:26h – the sixth month – there is some question as to which calendar Luke was referring to

- See “[The Magi and The Date of Jesus' Birth](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)” at www.TheWordNotes.com

it is also the sixth month of Elisabeth's pregnancy 1:36 – See Mat. 2:6 and Lk 2:39 notes

1:27i – Mary {μαριαμ} from Hebrew Miriam {מִרְיָם} - rebelliously