



## Luke 1

**V 1–4: ACCURATE ACCOUNT** Not only is the Bible trustworthy as the infallible Word of God, but Luke’s Gospel itself is well marshalled and presented from eyewitnesses. Luke writes it to Theophilus, to whom Acts is also addressed. We have confidence both in the Bible generally and in Luke’s Gospel specifically.

**Q Who was Theophilus? (1:3)**

**V 5–17: ANGEL’S ANNOUNCEMENT** Zacharias is a priest ministering in the temple. His wife, Elizabeth, is barren and they are both old. While on temple duty, the angel of God appears to him to tell him that God will give them a child who will be great, holy, and Spirit filled. His task will be to turn people to God, to mend human relationships and to prepare them for the Lord. Zacharias is troubled and frightened.

- **Q Who was this Herod? (1:5)**
- **Q How were priests divided into groups? (1:5)**
- **Q Why cast lots? (1:9)**
- **Q Why was John supposed to abstain from wine? (1:15)**
- **Q How could a baby be filled with the Holy Spirit? (1:15)**

**V 18–22: SILENT SIGN** Instead of taking God at His word, Zacharias asks for a sign. God tells him, through the angel Gabriel, that he will not be able to speak until his son is born. From that moment onward, he is literally speechless.

- **Q Who is Gabriel? (1:19)**
- **Q Why did God make Zechariah mute? (1:20)**

**V 23–25: CHILD CONCEIVED** His wife Elizabeth conceives and goes into confinement for five months. She is thankful to God for acting to give her a personal answer to her prayer.

**V 26–33: SAVIOUR SON** When Elizabeth is six months pregnant, the angel Gabriel appears in Nazareth to troubled Mary. He tells her that she will have a child whose name will be JESUS, which means ‘God saves’. He will be the Son of God with an everlasting kingdom. Her Son will thus be the Saviour of sinners and the everlasting King.

- **Q How was Mary highly favored? (1:28)**
- **Q Why name the child Jesus? (1:31)**

- **Q Was Jesus a common name in those days? (1:31)**

**V 34–38: MIRACULOUS MOTHERHOOD** God tells Mary that she will conceive in her womb through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit, who will overshadow her. This is in answer to her asking how her birth will come about since she is a virgin and therefore has never had a sexual relationship with a man. God reminds her that nothing is impossible for Him, and tells her of Elizabeth's conception. Mary commits herself to God and to His word.

**V 39–45: COMFORTING CONFIRMATION** When Mary greets Elizabeth, Elizabeth's baby leaps in her womb and she is filled with the Holy Spirit. She responds with a prophetic blessing, stating clearly that Mary's baby is God incarnate and that Mary herself is blessed through faith in her God.

- **Q Why did Mary leave home after the angel's visit? (1:39–40)**

**V 46–56: MARY'S MAGNIFICAT** The Magnificat, as this song of Mary is sometimes called, is Mary's response to God in which she thanks and praises God for who He is, rejoices that God is her Saviour, and is grateful for the way that He has dealt with her in her lowly state. She remembers God's promises to Abraham as well as His powerful intervention for His people in the past. After three months, Mary returns home from Elizabeth.

- **Q How much did Mary know about Jesus? (1:46–55)**
- **Q Was Mary boasting? (1:48)**

**V 57–60: BAPTIST'S BIRTH** The baby of Elizabeth and Zacharias is born. Those coming to circumcise him want to call him by his father's name. Elizabeth insists that his name is 'John'.

- **Q Why was circumcision so important for the Jews? (1:59)**

**V 61–66: LORD'S LOOSENING** The speech of Zacharias, the baby's father, is returned to him by God as soon as he writes down, 'His name is John.' Fear and amazement follow.

- **Q Why did they make signs to Zechariah? (1:62)**

**V 67–79: FATHER'S FORETELLING** Zacharias uses his rediscovered faculty of speech, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, to prophesy about his son's ministry. His main task as God's prophet will be to prepare the way of the Lord of salvation and light.

- **Q In what ways was John a prophet? (1:76)**

**V 80: STRONG SPIRIT** John grows physically and becomes strong in spirit. He stays in the deserts until the time when God will show him to Israel.

- **Q Why did John live in the wilderness? (1:80)**

**Summary**

**Luke 1 Summary Verses and Questions**