

We will now begin the first lecture on the gospel of Luke. /Today's passage is Luke chapter 1. /"Luke" wrote the gospel of Luke. /He recorded it in A.D. 62. /It was written in Rome. /Luke 1:1-4 is about the contents of the book and the method and purpose of why the book was written.

/Read verse 1. /Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,

/Luke explains in verses 1-2 about the contents of the book. /He says, "an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us." /The contents of the book are the things that witnessed from the beginning, /and the things that were passed on through servants of God. /These are the contents of Luke.

/Therefore, the Bible is an account of things that were witnessed. /1 John 1:1 says, "which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim concerning the Word of life," and Luke recorded the things that happened in these ways. /Verse 3 tells us how the book was written.

/Verse 3. /Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

/God told Luke to record his Word, /and Luke had three qualities. /He knew everything. /He knew the source. /He investigated everything. /God used Luke, who had these qualities, to record the Bible.

/Verse 3 says, "it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account." /Therefore, Luke's way of writing was to write in order of what happened. /The Bible is not written disorderly. /Verses 3-4 tell us of the purpose of this book.

/It says, "write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus." /This was not written only for Theophilus. /If we look at the entire book of Luke, /the book was written to the people who lived amid a Greek culture /and to the world.

/The purpose for Luke writing the Bible was /"so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." /It was so that we would know the certainty of the things we have been taught. /Luke also wrote the book to bring up faith in people. /Verses 8-25 tell the story of the birth of John the Baptist.

/Verses 5-7. /In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

/There were two people who were used by God. /The husband was Zechariah and his wife was Elizabeth. /They lived during the time of Herod king of Judea. /Herod here refers to Herod the Great. /He was an Edomite, and he reigned as tetrarch for thirty-three years from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C.

/King Herod of Judea was an Edomite. /This King Herod killed all children in Bethlehem under the age of two when Jesus was born. /Zechariah and Elizabeth kept their faith even during the reign of such an evil king.

/In whatever generation or circumstances we live in, we must always have faith. /Zechariah belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. /Zechariah's wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. /A godly man was born from such good parents.

/In verses 8-9, we can see Zechariah's faith. /Zechariah was upright before God, /and he kept the rules and regulations of a priest. /He acted according to the results of the lot, /and he was chosen to burn incense in the temple. /Verse 7 tells us of the couple in more detail.

/Read verse 6. /Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

/Zechariah and Elizabeth were without blemish, /and they were righteous before God. /They observed all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. /They were old but they were childless. /It was shameful not to have children in the Old Testament times.

/They were old /but they didn't have children, /and yet, they did not blame God. /They did not use humanly ways, /but kept their faith unchangingly. /They were righteous before God /and they observed all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.

/Hence, God used them. /In verses 11-13, /God foretells the birth of John the Baptist.

/Verses 11-13. /Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.

/God told Zechariah that he would give birth to John the Baptist through supernatural powers. /The couple was old, /and they could not have children by the thoughts of man, /but God spoke to them through an angel.

/“You wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.” /“You are to give him the name John.” /“John” means “the Lord is gracious.” /His name means “love.” /God allowed John to be born /and make a way for Jesus, /and used him to make a way for the people to receive Jesus.

/God allowed Zechariah and his wife, who could not have children, /to give birth to John the Baptist through supernatural powers. /This shows that it was God's work. /This clearly shows that God is in control of the movement of salvation.

/God does things that people cannot do. /Verses 14-17 foretell John the Baptist's calling. / There are two points to John the Baptist's calling. /First, verses 14-16 say /John is a Nazirite.

/Verses 14-16. /He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.

/God said that John "will be great in the sight of the Lord." /God said that he would surely make John great. /God also said, "He is never to take wine or other fermented drink." /Why did God say that John was not to drink?

/Numbers 6:1-4 /speak of the system of Nazirites. /Nazirites were people who devoted themselves to God, /and they did not cut their hair /or drink wine or fermented drink. /John the Baptist was not to drink wine or fermented drink /because he would devote himself to God all his life and do God's works.

/We are all Nazirites in the New Testament time. /We have devoted ourselves to God, /and we are the first fruits. /Revelation 14:4 /and Exodus 23:19 say that the first fruits belong to God. /We must belong to God and work for God.

/Second, John the Baptist's calling /would be filled with the spirit and power of Elijah. /Elijah who ascended into heaven was not coming, /but his spirit and power would come. /What were Elijah's power and spirit? /It was to hate sin. /It was to bring the Israelites to repent and return to God.

/This was Elijah's spirit and power. /John was to hate sin /and bring the Israelites to repent /and return to God. /Thus, John the Baptist took on the role of Elijah.

/John was to restore man's relationship with God, /and normalize the relationship between man and man. /God said that John would be born, /and yet, Zechariah did not believe, and he became mute. /In verses 18-25, Elizabeth conceives just as God said she would.

/Verse 18. /Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

/Here, Zechariah did not believe what God told him, and he becomes mute. /Why did Zechariah become mute? /He became mute because he did not believe God's words.

/Today, if we do not believe God's Word, we will become spiritually mute. /We will become blind if we do not believe. /In verses 24-25, Elizabeth conceives just as God said she would.

/Verses 24-25. /After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

/In those days, it was a disgrace not to be able to have children. /In today's time, it is a disgrace if believers of Jesus do not evangelize. /When we evangelize and they believe, we give birth to children of faith.

/A godly man was born from godly parents. /John the Baptist's calling as a Nazirite was to be great before the Lord, /abstain from drinking wine or other fermented drink, /and be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth. /We will become spiritually mute if we do not believe in God's Word.

/In verses 26-38, we can see Mary's faith. /God has great plans. /He sent Jesus Christ /to die on the cross /to redeem and save his chosen people.

/Jesus came to this earth as man, /and He did not come through a normal marriage /or through normal reproduction. /Jesus came through the Holy Spirit.

/When God accomplishes his will, what type of women did he work through? /God looked over the land /and saw the virgin Mary who was engaged to marry Joseph, /and God decided to send the Messiah through her. /What kind of faith did Mary have? /What type of person was Mary to become such a valuable believer?

/Verse 26. /In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

/Mary was from Nazareth, a town in Galilee. /Nazareth was not a good land. /In Isaiah 9:1-2, /it says that Galilee was a land of the Gentiles. /Matthew 4:15-16 says /"Galilee of the Gentiles."

/Galilee was a land of darkness, /a land of shadows, /and a land of death. /Nazareth was like this. /In John 1:46, Philip's friend Nathaniel says that nothing good can come from Nazareth.

/Nazareth in Galilee was a land that was looked down on, /a land of shadows, /and a land of death. /Yet, there was a person in that land /who God was pleased with. /Mary received blessings. /We must not blame our /environments or circumstances.

/Whether we live in a place like Nazareth /or Zebulun, /we must seek God /and we must chase after God's heart. /God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary /and she conceive /to do God's work. /God gives people blessings.

/What situation was Mary in at the time? /She was a virgin who was engaged to marry Joseph. /Why was Joseph going to be her husband? /Joseph came from the line of David and was from the tribe of Judah. /God said that Christ would come from the line of Abraham and David.

/Thus, Joseph, a descendant of the tribe of Judah, was engaged to Mary. /God did not want Jesus' birth to fail. /Jesus would not have come to this earth /if Mary was engaged to someone who did not have faith, /or had a bad personality, /or was impatient.

/If so, then Mary would have stoned to death. /However, in Matthew 1:19-21, /it says that Joseph was a man with good faith. /He did not expose Mary, /but wanted to divorce her quietly.

/God always uses godly people like Mary and Joseph. /God uses them in his redemption, /and uses them as his servants. /Mary was pregnant with Jesus for ten months, /and Joseph was Jesus' adoptive father.

/They were both godly people and were blessed. /However, how did Mary become such a refined and blessed person? /Here it says Mary was blessed, /and how did Mary become blessed? /There are three reasons.

/Read verse 48. /for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

/God was mindful of the human state of his servant, and thus, Mary was lifted up.

/Verse 49. /for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.

/God Almighty did great things for her, and thus, Mary was lifted up.

/Verse 52. /He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

/God lifted up the humble, and thus, Mary was lifted up. /Mary received God's grace.

/This was the first thing the angel Gabriel said to Mary. /"Greetings, you who are highly favored!" /"The Lord is with you." /God gave Mary his grace, /and there were three reasons for why God's grace was on Mary.

/Verse 31. /You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

/Verse 35. /The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

/The Holy Spirit came upon Mary. /The power of the most High overshadowed her. /We

must not destroy the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /God poured out his grace on Mary, /and she was given the blessing to give birth to Christ. /What kind of faith did Mary have for this to happen?

/Verse 38. /"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

/Mary had such faith, and thus, she receive God's grace. /"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." /"Whether I am stoned to death, /disgraced, /scorned upon, /looked down on, /or pointed fingers at, /I am satisfied if God's words will be fulfilled through me."

/This was Mary's faith. /The Holy Spirit came upon /this woman of faith, /and the power of the Most High came upon her.

/Verse 35. /The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

/This was the angel's one-sided notice. /However, Mary did not complain. /She did not ask why. /"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

/If we have faith like that of Mary, /the Holy Spirit will come upon us /and the Most High will work through his power. /Mary was satisfied with /the fulfillment of God's words. /Thus, God poured out his grace on Mary /and he lifted up and used Mary. /Mary gave birth to Christ through such faith.

/In verses 39-56, Mary visits Elizabeth. /She pondered about who she could go talk to /about such an important problem. /The Holy Spirit moved Mary's heart /and led her to Elizabeth.

/Mary was from Nazareth in Galilee, /and Elizabeth lived in the mountains in a town in Judea. /In order to solve her problem, /she traveled a long distance to a far place. /Elizabeth was /Mary's relative /and she was someone Mary could turn to when she had problems.

/Elizabeth was upright before God, /and she kept all the commands and regulations. /Mary was noble for going to such an upright person. /Elizabeth was also a noble person.

/Verses 41-45 tell us about Elizabeth.

/Read verses 41-45. /When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has

believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

/Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. /He was upright before God /and kept the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. /She was a woman with good faith. /She was God-fearing /and quiet.

/Elizabeth was secluded for several months. /Why did God allow her to be filled with the Holy Spirit? /It was because Elizabeth had many things to tell Mary.

/Verse 42. /In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

/Mary went to Elizabeth anxiously. /Then Elizabeth was filled with certainty when she spoke to Mary. /In verses 46-52, Mary /hears Elizabeth's words /and is blessed, /and Mary gains certainty.

/Mary was filled with joy and thanksgiving, /and she praised /and glorified God. /In verses 46-49, Mary praises God for his grace upon her.

/Verse 46. /And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

/Verses 47-49. /and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.

/Mary praised God with her soul. /She rejoiced in the Savior. /Verses 48-49 tell why she had no choice but to praise God /and why she was happy.

/Verses 48-49. /for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.

/Mary praised God because the Lord was mindful of a humble servant like herself. /Mary praised God and was joyful because God did great things for her. /God looks upon those who are humble. /The Almighty God did great things. /In verse 50, God's mercy is abundant.

/In verses 51-53, God is a just God. /God looks at the hearts of those who are proud. /God brings down rulers from their thrones. /God lifts up the humble.

/God fills the hungry with good things. /God is just and sends away the rich empty-handedly. /In verse 48, God /looks after the humble servant, /and he blesses her. /This is a great thing.

/God's mercy was upon Mary. /How can we receive God's mercy? /We can receive mercy when we fear God. /When we fear God, we will receive God's mercy.

/Today, even if we are like humble servants, /if we fear God /we can receive mercy /and be blessed. /Verses 57-66 speak of the birth of John the Baptist. /God sent John to this earth /to accomplish redemption.

/Verse 57. /When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

/Here it tells us about the birth of John the Baptist. /When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. /John was conceived in a supernatural way, /but he was born in a natural way.

/It is great grace to give birth when the time comes. /God is the one who allows people to conceive. /God allows people to give birth. /God gave grace through the birth of John the Baptist.

/First, God gave grace to Elizabeth's neighbors and family. /God also gave grace to Elizabeth. /God also gave grace to people around her.

/Verse 58. /Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

/God showed great mercy to /Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives. /God showed mercy. /Elizabeth's neighbors heard that John was born through God's mercy. /Then they were joyful with her.

/God also showed grace to John's parents. /In verses 59-64, /God showed grace to John's mother /and John's father. /It says that /John's mother had faith that surpassed family and tradition.

/When the people wanted to name the son, "Zechariah," after his father, he said, "No! He is to be called John." /This was noble faith that confessed the things that were right.

/In verses 62-63, we can see the faith of John's father. /He faith was shown through his writing on a writing tablet. /Zechariah became mute when he did not believe, /but he clearly displayed his thoughts through writing.

/When Zechariah obeyed God and said to name his son, John, /Zechariah was freed from his punishment. /Zechariah's tongue was loosed and he was able to speak. /Zechariah's lips were opened and he spoke /so that he could praise God. /God also showed grace to the people around them.

/Read verse 65. /The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.

/The neighbors were filled with awe. /They engraved these things onto their hearts. /All the people saw that the Lord's hand was with John. /It is important that the Lord's hand is



with us. /Zechariah 13:7, /13:7 says, /the Lord's hand would be on the little ones.

/In verses 67-80 is Zechariah's song. /Zechariah obeyed the Holy Spirit /and he prophesied and praised God. /He followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit, /and he realized that he would be saved through the coming Christ /and praised God.

/In verses 68-71, /Zechariah sings praises about salvation. /In verses 72-75, /he talks about how saved believers should live. /Lastly, in verses 76-79, /he prophesies about John the Baptist's calling.

/The duties of John the Baptist, /who is a prophet of the Most High God, /will prepare the way for the Lord. /John will also give the people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

/Verse 80. /And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

/John the Baptist became strong in spirit and power /through God and his life of prayer in the desert. /Then he was able to carry out his calling as a pioneer of Christ /through power in his spirit.

/Here we will conclude the first lecture on the gospel of Luke. /Thank you.