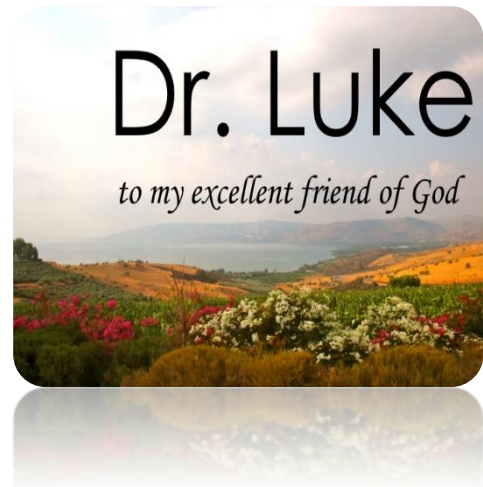


# LUKE 1 vs 1

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Dr. Luke, the beloved physician, both friend and associate of Paul, unquestionably, His attention to detail is a credit to who he was. Dr. Luke wrote the most detailed history of the early church; which similar details are unseen in any other historical accounts of that era. For example, if there is a question about anything Luke wrote, then: ALL the accounts of every one of the roman Caesars...are equally to be questioned and uncertain as the earliest were written 1,000 years later.



**<sup>1</sup> Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things that are most surely believed among us,**

**<sup>2</sup> even as those handed to us, who from the beginning were eyewitness and servants of the word** / they were direct witnesses, not merely to what Jesus the good Pastor taught, but they were direct witnesses after His resurrection, Jesus risen from the dead **eyewitnesses to this stunning event:** a diverse group totaling over 600 – 700 eyewitnesses, available, willing to share their accounts of Jesus alive, with nail prints in His hands and feet...over 600 – 700 people willing to suffer untold abuse and death for what they saw; so Jesus was not like any modern day leaders;

**<sup>3</sup> It seemed good to me also,**

**having thorough understanding of all things from the very beginning,**

**to write it out in order for you, most excellent Theophilus** / from the family of the high priest **Annas**, and his son-in-law **Caiaphas** – which is why we read high priests / plural; then eldest son **Jonathan, Alexander**; finally **Theophilus** who was high priest of the Temple in Jerusalem, **37 – 41AD**; so **Theophilus was serving during the martyrdom of Stephen**; serving until he was deposed by relatives of King Agrippa and Bernice. Though it is speculative, I'm sure Theophilus and Luke wrote the book of Hebrews,

**<sup>4</sup> That you would know with certainty those things,**

**in which you have been instructed.**

**<sup>5</sup> There was in the days of Herod** / who was obviously afraid of 2-year-olds; who murdered his 3 sons; Herod, the Idumean was ancestor of Esau. In later years, Herodotus identifies Idumeans living north of the Crimea; Meshech being one of the nineteen satraps of Darius; they are not of king David's lineage,

**in the days of Herod... the king of Judaea** / so an unlawful roman usurper was on the throne,

**a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia** / or **Abijah**; Zacharias was a descendant of Aaron, with Moses; and Zadok at the time of David; head of the 8<sup>th</sup> of 24 high priest courses: in 1962, archaeological inscription discovered affirms these courses.

**Zacharias, of the course of Abiajah** / these courses are listed in: **1 Chronicles 24:7-19**. According to the historian Josephus, each course lasted for one week, the first course began in the first month: Nisan, in early spring -- on the Hebrew Calendar; around March on our calendar.

The priest would serve his course; then, after six months, this order of courses repeated; so, each priest served his course -- **twice a year**. Three weeks out of the year, all the priests served together -- during the Passover, Pentecost, and Feast of Tabernacles.

**Zacharias, of the course of Abiajah** / this would have been Iyar 27 to Sivan 5 on the Hebrew Calendar: early to middle June on the Gregorian calendar (\* at the end of the chapter is a summary of alternate dates) But back to Luke who wrote...

**Zacharias, of the course of Abijah** / so that would be **middle of June**: (\* or mid-December)

**and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.**

**<sup>6</sup> And before God,**

**they were both rightly walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless** / they knew the 10 commandments the Lord promised them, to bless them -- **Deuteronomy 5**; which does not mean they were perfect; they were sinners, too! But they had learned: to love the Lord God above all others, and to love their neighbor... including the widows and orphans; the poorest, and even the foreigners they met... all welcomed to the home of Zacharias and Elisabeth.

**<sup>7</sup> And they had no child, because Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well advanced in years** / but is anything too difficult for God?.

**<sup>8</sup> And it happened, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course** / and again, when was that? Yes, the **middle of June** (\* or mid-December),

**<sup>9</sup> According to the custom of the priest's office,**

**his lot was to burn incense** / his assignment was to refresh and keep lit the candlestand where continual prayers were offered to the Lord God;

and this important assignment is nothing Zacharias would do half-drunk or sleep walking.

**when he went to the naos of the Lord** / meaning: **sacred place** of the Lord -- 1 of 2 words chiefly used in the NT translated: **temple**. Paul only uses this word... to describe **our heart** -- our innermost being... **where the Spirit dwells**... in the church Jesus is building. John used this word 16 times in **the Revelation** to describe **where in the Almighty God and the Lamb do their work**. I'm sure they sang Psalm 91: he who dwells in the **secret place** of the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty. Do **not** think this word exclusively means: **some brick and stone building**. No! That is the other word: **hieron**.

**10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the time of incense.**

**11 And there appeared** / optanomai, *optan* = **optics** + *omai* = **middle voice**, for the benefit of the individual; at its root, this word is related to optics and optometry. Said differently, the appearance was not some fantastic daydream or nightmare; and Zacharias did not need glasses.

**And there visited him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.**  
/ and remember: Zacharias is not snoozing on the job; he is wide awake.

**12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was startled, and fear seized him** / without a doubt, I am certain Zacharias was more than a little confused; he was terribly frightened.

**13 But the angel said to him,**

**Do not fear, Zacharias: for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elisabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.**

**14 And you will have joy and gladness; and many will rejoice at his birth.**

**15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and will not drink 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, to return 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 -- Malachi 3.**

**18 And Zacharias said to the angel,**

**How will I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.**

**19 And the angel answering said to him, I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and am sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news.**

**20 And, behold,**

**you will be mute** / unable to speak,

**until the day these things happen,**

**because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.**

# LUKE 1 vs 1

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<sup>21</sup> And the people waited for Zacharias,

and wondered at his delay so long in the temple.

<sup>22</sup> And when he came out, he could **not** speak to them:

and they perceived he had seen a vision in the temple / the people sensed from Zacharias' demeanor, he had a visit; someone stopped by and not just to see the sights...

for he indicated to them, and remained speechless.

<sup>23</sup> And it happened, as soon as the days of his priestly service were accomplished, he departed to his own house / nine months later, as the story goes... and if you do the math, from the middle of June... until John was born... **in the middle of March** (\* or mid-September), right?;

<sup>24</sup> And after those days his wife **Elisabeth** conceived, and hid herself five months, saying / and we learn something his wife Elisabeth concluded in mid-November (\* or mid-May),

<sup>25</sup> Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

(because the priests officiated twice a year, an interesting alternative dating summary is provided at the end of the next pdf file: **Luke 1 vs 26**)

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