**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO**

**LUKE**

*Dedication to Theophilus*

1

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

*Birth of John the Baptist Foretold*

5In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

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

19The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

21Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

23When his time of service was completed, he returned home.

24After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25“Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

*Birth of Jesus Foretold*

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27to a virgin betrothedto a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servantof the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

*Mary Visits Elizabeth*

39In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would bea fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

*Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat*

46And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47    and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
    For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
49for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
    and holy is his name.  
50And his mercy is for those who fear him  
    from generation to generation.  
51He has shown strength with his arm;  
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
52he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
    and exalted those of humble estate;  
53he has filled the hungry with good things,  
    and the rich he has sent away empty.  
54He has helped his servant Israel,  
    in remembrance of his mercy,  
55as he spoke to our fathers,  
    to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

56And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

*The Birth of John the Baptist*

57Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” 61And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” 62And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. 64And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

*Zechariah's Prophecy*

67And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
    for he has visited and redeemed his people  
69and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
    in the house of his servant David,  
70as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
71that we should be saved from our enemies  
    and from the hand of all who hate us;  
72to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
    and to remember his holy covenant,  
73the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
74    that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
75    in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
76And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
    in the forgiveness of their sins,  
78because of the tender mercy of our God,  
    whereby the sunrise shall visit usfrom on high  
79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
    to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

*The Birth of Jesus Christ*

2

 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration whenQuirinius was governor of Syria. 3And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*The Shepherds and the Angels*

8And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest,  
    and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Presented at the Temple

22And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 24and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” 25Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29“Lord, now you are letting your servantdepart in peace,  
    according to your word;  
30for my eyes have seen your salvation  
31    that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
32a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
    and for glory to your people Israel.”

33And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

36And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

*The Return to Nazareth*

39And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

*The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

41Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48And when his parentssaw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” 49And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” 50And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in statureand in favor with God and man.

### *The Lord Is My Strength and My Song* 12  You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord,     for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away,     that you might comfort me. 2“Behold, God is my salvation;     I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord Godis my strength and my song,     and he has become my salvation.” 3With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord,     call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples,     proclaim that his name is exalted. 5“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;     let this be made known in all the earth. 6Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,     for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

### *The Judgment of Babylon* 13  The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. 2On a bare hill raise a signal;     cry aloud to them; wave the hand for them to enter     the gates of the nobles. 3I myself have commanded my consecrated ones,     and have summoned my mighty men to execute my anger,     my proudly exulting ones.4The sound of a tumult is on the mountains     as of a great multitude! The sound of an uproar of kingdoms,     of nations gathering together! The Lord of hosts is mustering     a host for battle. 5They come from a distant land,     from the end of the heavens, the Lord and the weapons of his indignation,     to destroy the whole land.6Wail, for the day of the Lord is near;     as destruction from the Almightyit will come! 7Therefore all hands will be feeble,     and every human heart will melt. 8They will be dismayed:     pangs and agony will seize them;     they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another;     their faces will be aflame.

### 9Behold, the day of the Lord comes,     cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation     and to destroy its sinners from it. 10For the stars of the heavens and their constellations     will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising,     and the moon will not shed its light. 11I will punish the world for its evil,     and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant,     and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. 12I will make people more rare than fine gold,     and mankind than the gold of Ophir. 13Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,     and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the Lord of hosts     in the day of his fierce anger. 14And like a hunted gazelle,     or like sheep with none to gather them, each will turn to his own people,     and each will flee to his own land. 15Whoever is found will be thrust through,     and whoever is caught will fall by the sword. 16Their infants will be dashed in pieces     before their eyes; their houses will be plundered     and their wives ravished.

17Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against them,  
    who have no regard for silver  
    and do not delight in gold.  
18Their bows will slaughterthe young men;  
    they will have no mercy on the fruit of the womb;  
    their eyes will not pity children.  
19And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms,  
    the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans,  
will be like Sodom and Gomorrah  
    when God overthrew them.  
20It will never be inhabited  
    or lived in for all generations;  
no Arab will pitch his tent there;  
    no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there.  
21But wild animals will lie down there,  
    and their houses will be full of howling creatures;  
there ostricheswill dwell,  
    and there wild goats will dance.  
22Hyenas will cry in its towers,  
    and jackals in the pleasant palaces;  
its time is close at hand  
    and its days will not be prolonged.

### *The Restoration of Jacob* 14 For the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob. 2And the peoples will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them in the Lord's land as male and female slaves. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.

### *Israel's Remnant Taunts Babylon* 3When the Lord has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to serve, 4you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon:

“How the oppressor has ceased,  
    the insolent fury[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2014&version=ESV#fen-ESV-17933b)] ceased!  
5The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked,  
    the scepter of rulers,  
6that struck the peoples in wrath  
    with unceasing blows,  
that ruled the nations in anger  
    with unrelenting persecution.  
7The whole earth is at rest and quiet;  
    they break forth into singing.  
8The cypresses rejoice at you,  
    the cedars of Lebanon, saying,  
‘Since you were laid low,  
    no woodcutter comes up against us.’  
9Sheol beneath is stirred up  
    to meet you when you come;  
it rouses the shades to greet you,  
    all who were leaders of the earth;  
it raises from their thrones  
    all who were kings of the nations.  
10All of them will answer  
    and say to you:  
‘You too have become as weak as we!  
    You have become like us!’  
11Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,  
    the sound of your harps;  
maggots are laid as a bed beneath you,  
    and worms are your covers.

12“How you are fallen from heaven,  
    O Day Star, son of Dawn!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
    you who laid the nations low!  
13You said in your heart,  
    ‘I will ascend to heaven;  
above the stars of God  
    I will set my throne on high;  
I will sit on the mount of assembly  
    in the far reaches of the north;[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2014&version=ESV#fen-ESV-17942c)]  
14I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
    I will make myself like the Most High.’  
15But you are brought down to Sheol,  
    to the far reaches of the pit.  
16Those who see you will stare at you  
    and ponder over you:  
‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,  
    who shook kingdoms,  
17who made the world like a desert  
    and overthrew its cities,  
    who did not let his prisoners go home?’  
18All the kings of the nations lie in glory,  
    each in his own tomb;[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2014&version=ESV#fen-ESV-17947d)]  
19but you are cast out, away from your grave,  
    like a loathed branch,  
clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword,  
    who go down to the stones of the pit,  
    like a dead body trampled underfoot.  
20You will not be joined with them in burial,  
    because you have destroyed your land,  
    you have slain your people.

“May the offspring of evildoers  
    nevermore be named!  
21Prepare slaughter for his sons  
    because of the guilt of their fathers,  
lest they rise and possess the earth,  
    and fill the face of the world with cities.”

22“I will rise up against them,” declares the Lord of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity,” declares the Lord. 23“And I will make it a possession of the hedgehog,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2014&version=ESV#fen-ESV-17952e)] and pools of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the Lord of hosts.

### *An Oracle Concerning Assyria* 24The Lord of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned,     so shall it be, and as I have purposed,     so shall it stand, 25that I will break the Assyrian in my land,     and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them,     and his burden from their shoulder.” 26This is the purpose that is purposed     concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out     over all the nations. 27For the Lord of hosts has purposed,     and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out,     and who will turn it back?

### *An Oracle Concerning Philistia* 28In the year that King Ahaz died came this oracle: 29Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you,     that the rod that struck you is broken, for from the serpent's root will come forth an adder,     and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent. 30And the firstborn of the poor will graze,     and the needy lie down in safety; but I will kill your root with famine,     and your remnant it will slay. 31Wail, O gate; cry out, O city;     melt in fear, O Philistia, all of you! For smoke comes out of the north,     and there is no straggler in his ranks. 32What will one answer the messengers of the nation? “The Lord has founded Zion,     and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge.”

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