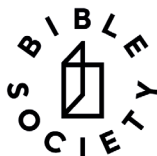


Luke tells us the
Good News
about **Jesus**



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EasyEnglish Gospel of Luke

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Luke tells us the Good News about Jesus

A word list at the end explains words with a star* by them

About this book

Luke obeyed what Jesus taught. He was also a doctor. People think that he was not a Jew*. He wrote this book some time between the years AD* 59 and AD* 80. Some people think that he wrote it in the city called Rome. He wrote it for a man called Theophilus. He was an important Roman* officer and he was a rich man.

Luke also wrote the book for other people that believed in Jesus. It would help them to know Jesus better. Then they could answer questions when people asked them about him. Many people had wrong ideas about Jesus. Luke wanted people to know what was true.

Luke writes about the Good News. The Good News is that God wants to rule in the lives of his people. God will rule in the lives of Jews* and of those people that are not Jews*. Luke tells us who Jesus is. And he tells us how Jesus was born. He also tells us about his life and death. Luke explains to us why Jesus came to earth. He also explains what he did during his life here. And he tells us how he went to live with God again. And, at the end, he explains to us about God's gift of the Holy Spirit*.

Luke knew that Jesus had told people about the Good News. Jesus wanted his people to let everyone in the world know the

message about himself. Luke wanted everyone to know what Jesus had said.

The book of Luke is in 4 parts:

1. What happened before Jesus started his work (1:1 - 4:13).
2. What happened when Jesus was working in the country called Galilee (4:14 - 9:50).
3. What happened when Jesus was working in the countries called Judea and Perea (9:51 - 19:27).
4. What happened in the city called Jerusalem in the last week of Jesus' life (19:28 - 24:53).

LUKE

1

¹Great things have happened in our country. Many people have tried to write about them. ²Some people were present when these things started to happen. They saw everything that happened. They told us what they had seen. And they told us what they had heard. They are the people who told the Good News. ³Most important Theophilus, I have checked all these facts. Now I also know about all the things that happened from the beginning. I am writing to tell them to you. It is good for you also to know all these facts. This is the reason for this letter. ⁴You have already heard about all these things. Now you can be sure that they are true.

What happened before John the Baptist* was born

⁵ There was a man whose name was Zechariah. He lived when Herod was king of Judea. Zechariah was a priest* and he belonged to a group of priests* from the family* of Abijah. He had a wife called Elizabeth. And they were both from the family* of the priest* called Aaron.

⁶Zechariah and Elizabeth obeyed God all the time. They did not do wrong things. God liked how they lived. ⁷But they had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby and they were both getting old.

⁸One day, Zechariah's group was working at the Great House of God*. And Zechariah had a special job to do. ⁹The priests* chose one of their group to go into a special room inside the Great House of God*. Zechariah's job was to burn incense* there.

¹⁰While Zechariah was burning incense*, many men were outside the special room. They were praying to God.

¹¹The incense* was burning on a special table, when an angel* from God appeared to Zechariah. The angel* was standing at the right hand side of the table.

¹²When Zechariah saw the angel*, he was very surprised. He was also very afraid. ¹³‘Zechariah, do not be afraid’, the angel* said to him. ‘God has heard what you prayed. He will give you what you asked for. Your wife Elizabeth will have a baby boy. You will call him John. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵He will be very important to the LORD. So, he will make you very happy. Many other people will also be very happy because he has been born. He must never drink anything with alcohol in it. From the time that he is born, the Holy Spirit* will live inside him.

¹⁶He will teach many people in Israel*. Then they will turn their lives towards the LORD their God and they will obey God again. ¹⁷John will prepare the people for the LORD. The Holy Spirit* will lead John as he led Elijah. John will be as powerful as Elijah was. He will help fathers to love their children. He will teach people that do not obey God. Then they will think right things. And they will do right things that good people do. John will prepare Israel’s* people. Then they will be ready when the LORD comes.’

¹⁸‘How can I be sure about this?’ Zechariah asked the angel*. ‘After all, I am an old man. My wife is also old.’

¹⁹‘I am called Gabriel’, answered the angel*. ‘My place is in front of God. I am always ready to work for God. He has sent me to speak to you. He told me that I should tell you this good news. ²⁰Now listen to me. Because you did not believe my message, you will be quiet. You will not speak again until the time that your son is born. My message will become true at the right time.’

²¹While this was happening, the people outside were waiting for Zechariah. They were thinking, ‘Why has Zechariah stayed

for such a long time in the special room? Why has he not come out yet?’ ²²When he did come out, he tried to talk to them. But he could not speak. So they knew that he had seen something special in the room. He was moving his head and his hands about, to tell them what had happened. But he remained quiet.

²³When Zechariah had finished his work in the Great House of God*, he returned home. ²⁴Soon, a baby was growing inside his wife Elizabeth. She stayed in her house for 5 months. ²⁵‘The LORD has now given me a baby’, she said. ‘He has been kind to me. He has helped me to feel good about myself. Because of this, other people cannot say bad things about me any longer.’

What happened before Jesus was born

²⁶When Elizabeth’s baby had grown inside her for nearly 6 months, God sent the angel* Gabriel to Nazareth. Nazareth is a town in Galilee. ²⁷Gabriel went there to visit a young woman. Her name was Mary. She had never had sex with anyone. She had promised to marry a man called Joseph. He belonged to the family* of King David.

²⁸ Gabriel arrived. ‘Hello, Mary’, he said. ‘God loves you very much. He is very near to you.’

²⁹Mary had a lot of problems in her mind about what Gabriel said. She did not understand why he said it. ³⁰‘Do not be afraid, Mary’, Gabriel went on to say. ‘God has been kind to you. ³¹Listen! A baby boy will grow inside you. When he is born, you will call him Jesus. ³²He will be great. The strong God above will call him his Son. The LORD God will make him king. He will rule as King David ruled. ³³He will rule over the family* of Jacob for all time. He will be king for all time.’

³⁴‘How can this happen?’ Mary asked. ‘I have never had sex with anyone.’ ³⁵‘The Holy Spirit* will come to you’, the angel* answered. ‘The power of God will cover you like a shadow. So, your child will be completely good. He will never do anything that is wrong. He will be called God’s Son. ³⁶Another thing! Your cousin, Elizabeth, is very old. People said that she could not have a baby. Listen! She

also will have a son. The baby has grown inside her now for nearly 6 months. ³⁷There is nothing that God cannot do.’

³⁸‘I am the servant of the LORD’, Mary answered. ‘I have heard what you have said. I want the LORD to cause it to happen to me.’ Then the angel* left her.

Mary visits Elizabeth

³⁹After that, Mary prepared herself and she left on a journey. She hurried to a town in the hills of Judea. ⁴⁰When she arrived at the home of Zechariah, she said, ‘Hello’ to Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary speak, she felt her baby move quickly inside her. The Holy Spirit* filled her. ⁴²Then she spoke to Mary in a loud voice, ‘God has made you very happy. He has been more good and kind to you than to other women. He has also been good and kind to your baby. ⁴³I am not an important person and you are the mother of my LORD. So, it is a very good thing that you have visited me. ⁴⁴Listen! When I heard you say, “Hello” to me, the baby moved quickly inside me. He was very happy. ⁴⁵The LORD told you what would happen. And you believed what he told you. This makes you a very happy person.’

This is Mary’s song

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

‘All of me wants to say to the LORD, “How good and great you are!”

⁴⁷I am happy because of God. It is he who saves me.

⁴⁸I do not think that I am an important person. God knows this, so he has looked at me with love.

Listen! From now on all people will say that God has been very good and kind to me.

⁴⁹After all, God has done great things for me.

He is very powerful and strong.

He is good in everything.

⁵⁰He is kind to people that obey him.