

“it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.” - Luke 1:3-4

Overview:

Luke starts off writing to a man named Theophilus so he may know the certainty of the things in which he had been instructed. (v.1) Luke uses the phrase, “perfect understanding” of all things in verse 3. The word perfect means strict accuracy. Luke's goal was to give an accurate and orderly account of Jesus Christ.

Luke starts off his account “in the days of Herod, the king of Judea”. There were four Herods written about in the New Testament Herod the Great, the father/grandfather of the other Herods. Herod Antipas who was ruling during the time of Jesus. Herod Agrippa I who killed James the brother of John, the apostle. Herod Agrippa II who heard Paul's testimony with Festus. This is a time stamp but not the focus.

Luke's first focus is on the parents of John the Baptist. Both Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth were from the line of Aaron (v.5) They were both righteous before God (v.6) and blameless in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord (v.6). But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren and they were both well advanced in years. Even with this, there is no trace of bitterness in their lives. They continued to serve the Lord and they continued to pray for a child and the Lord answered their prayers.

References:

Luke

- Beloved physician who met Paul in Troas (Acts 16:1-10)
- First Roman imprisonment (Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24)
- Second Roman imprisonment (2 Timothy 4:11)

Luke 1:1 – Inasmuch as many

- Matthew – 37-50 AD
- Mark – Early 60 AD, just before or right after Peter's death
- Luke – Mid 60 AD

Luke 1:1 – Of those things which have been fulfilled among us (1 John 1:1-3)

Luke 1:5 – In their names we hear the promise of God (Psalm 89:3-4, 24-29, 34-37)

- Zacharias -Yahweh remembers
- Elizabeth - My God is her oath

Luke 1:7 – They had no child. No bitterness over this fact (Hebrews 12:14-15)

Luke 1:9 – His lot fell (Proverbs 16:33)

Luke 1:10 – Hour of incense (Exodus 30:7-8)

Luke 1:15 – And shall drink neither wine nor strong drink (Judges 13, 1 Samuel 1)

Luke 1:17 – He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah (Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6)

Luke 1:22 – He could not speak. Couldn't give the blessing of Numbers 6:24-26

Questions:

- * What evidences does Luke use in verses 1-4 which backs up his claim “that you many know the certainty”?
- * Is there something in your life that you are praying for but God hasn't given an answer to yet? How is your attitude towards God over this? Take a few minutes and ask God to remove any root of bitterness you may have.

Additional Study:

Luke 1:1

- * Have taken in hand (*epicheireo*) – endeavor, attempt
- * To set in order (*anatassomai*) – compile, put together in series
- * A narrative (*diegesis*) – a discourse set forth in orderly narration

Luke 1:2

- * Eyewitnesses (*autoptes*) – autopsy – to see for one's self
- * Ministers of the word (*huperetes*) – under-rowers

Luke 1:3

- * A perfect understanding (*akribōs*) – strict accuracy

Luke 1:3

- * Orderly account (*kathexes*) – one after the other, in sequence of time, space or logic

Luke 1:4

- * Know the certainty (*ashpaleia*) – firmness, reliability

Luke 1:5

- * Zacharias (*Yahweh remembers*)
- * Elizabeth (*My God is her oath*)

Luke 1:12

- * He was troubled (*tarasso*) – shaken up

Luke 1:19

- * Gabriel (*Strength of God*)