

The Birth of Christ

Lesson 1

Luke 1:1-4

December 6, 2020

Why We Can Believe the Bible

Introduction

In a commentary about these verses in Luke, David Guzik says, “The first four verses of Luke’s gospel are one sentence in the original Greek. They are written in refined, academic, classical style. But then, for the rest of the gospel, Luke didn’t use the language of scholars but of the common man.”

Luke wrote not to show how great he was, but so that people would easily and clearly understand the gospel no matter what station in life. This is similar to how Jesus taught as well. He told stories to get his point across to the masses.

Luke’s recipient of the letter, Theophilus, may have been questioning the faith, like so many Christians might do nowadays. Luke’s intent was to reassure Theophilus that these events did indeed take place, using eyewitnesses, written accounts, even geography, in a careful investigation of the life of Jesus.

Luke, a trustworthy, detailed, precise physician was careful to get the story right: to accurately portray the gospel account.

Memory verse: “I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”—Luke 1:3b-4

Pray and read Luke 1:3b-4. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What does the passage say?

1. What is it that many have undertaken to draw up?
(Luke 1:1)
2. From whom were these accounts handed down?
(Luke 1:2)
3. What was carefully done by Luke from the beginning?
(Luke 1:3)
4. What was it that Luke decided to do after carefully investigating? (Luke 1:3)
5. To whom was Luke writing an orderly account?
(Luke 1:3)
6. Why was Luke writing? (Luke 1:4)

What does the passage mean?

1. Luke himself was not like the other gospel writers. His gospel is taken from firsthand accounts or written words describing the events of Jesus' ministry by those who saw it happen. What makes these sources credible? (2 Peter 1:16; 1 John 1:1-4)

2. Read Luke 1:3 again. What makes Luke credible to put these accounts to paper? (See also Colossians 4:14) Why are Luke's background and methods important in defending his accounts? (Luke 24:46-48; John 19:35)

3. Why do you think people choose to not believe the Bible is accurate in its retelling of the gospel story? (John 8:43-47; Romans 1:18-23)

4. Why is it important to view the Bible and what it teaches as factual and accurate and not just a series of mythical stories teaching moral lessons? (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Applying the passage

1. What can you say to people who question the Bible's legitimacy? Where can you take them to look for answers, or to answer questions you yourself may have?

