

good
NEWS BIBLE

The Gospel according to

LUKE

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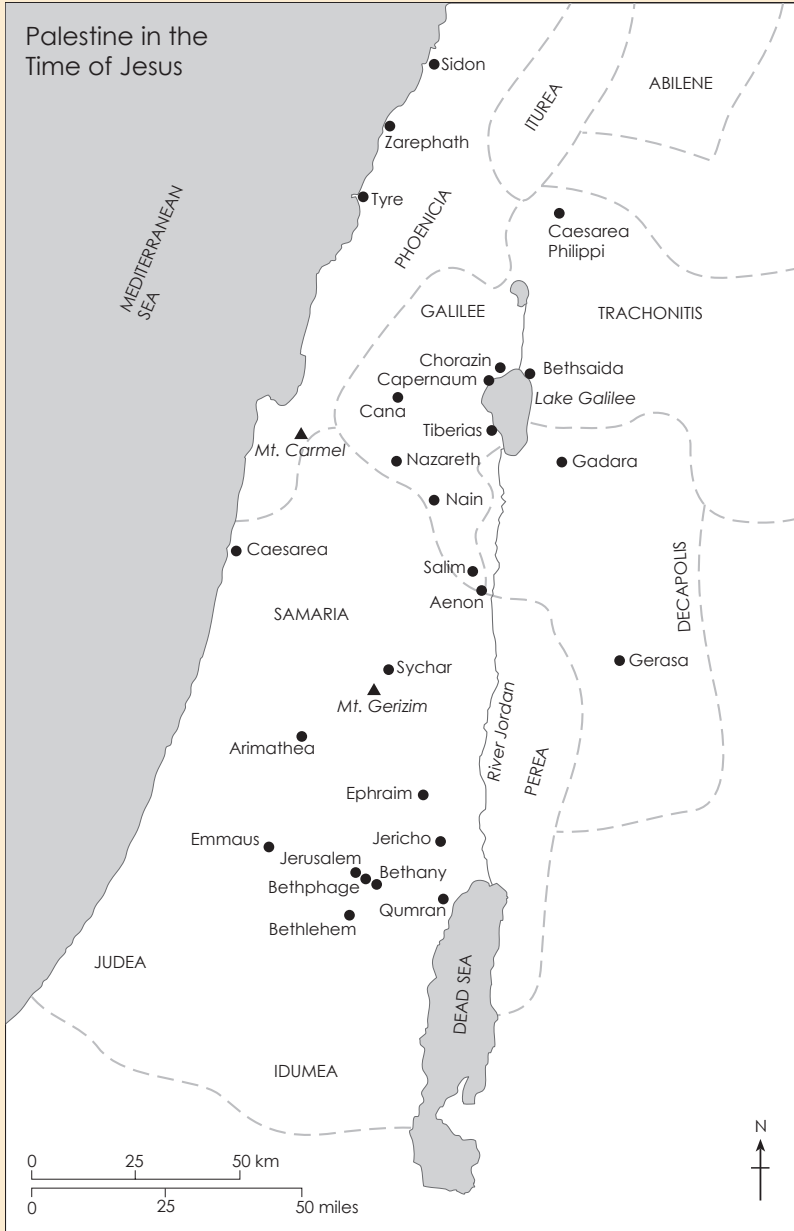
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The Gospel according to Luke

The story of Jesus, man and God

What's it about? Through his story of Jesus, Luke shows us that Jesus came for everyone, including those who are considered outsiders.

Who wrote it? Luke was a doctor and a friend of Paul. He wrote two books – this Gospel and the book of Acts. We don't know if he met Jesus, but he would have talked with lots of people who had.

Why read it? Luke records many of the most famous stories about Jesus – his birth, parables such as the good Samaritan and the lost son, miracles in boats and astonishing healings. It's perhaps the most familiar of the Gospels.

What's it to me? If you thought that the kingdom of God was only for good people, then Luke shows that Jesus came to save everyone, no matter who they are.

Chapter 1

¹ Dear Theophilus:

Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us.

² They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message.

³ And so, your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an orderly account for you.

⁴ I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.

The Birth of John the Baptist is Announced

⁵ During the time when Herod was king of Judea,^a there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife's name was Elizabeth; she also belonged to a priestly family.

⁶ They both lived good lives in God's sight and obeyed fully all the Lord's laws and commands.

⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth could not have any, and she and Zechariah were both very old.

⁸ One day Zechariah was doing his work as a priest in the Temple, taking his turn in the daily service.

^a *Judea*: The term here refers to the whole land of Palestine.

⁹According to the custom followed by the priests, he was chosen by lot to burn incense on the altar. So he went into the Temple of the Lord, ¹⁰while the crowd of people outside prayed during the hour when the incense was burnt.

¹¹An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right of the altar where the incense was burnt.

¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was alarmed and felt afraid.

¹³But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John.

¹⁴How glad and happy you will be, and how happy many others will be when he is born!

¹⁵He will be a great man in the Lord's sight. He must not drink any wine or strong drink. From his very birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶and he will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

¹⁷He will go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; he will turn disobedient people back to the way of thinking of the righteous; he will get the Lord's people ready for him."

¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also."

¹⁹"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news.