

# MESSAGE OUTLINE

## SUNDAY, November 20, 2022



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **YAHWEH REMEMBERS**

Luke 1:1-25

Pastor Gary Stump

Don't we all love a good comeback story? As we begin our study of the Gospel of Luke I want to share with you one of the greatest comeback stories in history...from complete obscurity to global acclaim...But this isn't just a story of "worst to first," it is a story of how God can do the impossible for you!!

### Gospel of Luke—Introduction

*Luke 1:1–4 (NLT) Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us.<sup>2</sup> They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples.<sup>3</sup> Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus,<sup>4</sup> so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.*

**Written by:** Luke, Paul's helper and companion (wrote Luke-Acts = 28% of NT)

*Colossians 4:14a (ESV) Luke the beloved physician greets you*

*2 Timothy 4:11a (ESV) Luke alone is with me.*

"Luke may have been a proselyte to Judaism, but the evidence seems to suggest that Luke was Jewish by birth." (David L. Allen, PhD; Dean of School of Theology; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

**Date Written:** 60-61 AD

**Written to:** Theophilus (high priest Theophilus ben Ananus 37-41 AD; or a Roman noble)

**Purpose of Luke:** "[Luke] had an apologetic and evangelistic purpose, to present Jesus in such a way that any reader might accept him as Messiah, Lord and Saviour." (Dr. I. Howard Marshall, Prof. NT, University of Aberdeen Scotland)

**Yahweh Remembers** *Luke 1:5–25 (NLT)<sup>5</sup> When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron.<sup>6</sup> Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations.<sup>7</sup> They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.<sup>8</sup> One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week.<sup>9</sup> As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.<sup>10</sup> While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.<sup>11</sup> While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar.<sup>12</sup> Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him.<sup>13</sup> But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.<sup>14</sup> You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,<sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.<sup>16</sup> And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God.<sup>17</sup> He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years."<sup>19</sup> Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!<sup>20</sup> But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long.<sup>22</sup> When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary.<sup>23</sup> When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home.<sup>24</sup> Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months.<sup>25</sup> "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children."*

**Zechariah** (זְכַרְיָהוּ) = "Yahweh remembers"

*Psalm 136:23 (NLT) He remembered us in our weakness. His faithful love endures forever.*

**Abijah** (אַבְיָה) = "Yahweh is my Father"

*2 Corinthians 6:18 (NLT) "And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."*

**Elizabeth** (אֵלִישֶׁבַע) = "God of the oath"

*Hebrews 6:18 (NLT) So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.*

**Gabriel** (גַּבְרִיאֵל) = "God is my strength"

*Psalm 28:7 (NLT) The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.*

**John** (יְהוֹנָתָן) = "Yahweh has given"

*James 1:17 (ESV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

### **Our God is the God of the Impossible!**

*Genesis 18:14 (NLT) "Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."*

*Luke 1:37 (ESV) "For nothing will be impossible with God."*

*Matthew 19:26 (ESV) But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

*Jeremiah 32:17 (NLT) "O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!"*

*Mark 9:23b (ESV) "All things are possible for one who believes."*

### **How to experience a comeback like Zechariah:**

- Don't let the past ruin your future
- Don't judge the ending at halftime
- Assume the goodness of God
- Trust the God of the Impossible
- Delight yourself in the Lord
- Believe the best is yet to come

**SO WHAT?** Can you believe God for the impossible?

*Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

We need to live into the future with hope in the God of the Impossible because Yahweh Remembers!



## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, November 20, 2022

**1. PIZZA LUNCH TOGETHER AFTER WORSHIP TODAY**—Join us for lunch immediately after worship this Sunday. Pizzas provided. Bring: salads or desserts plus drinks in liter bottles (ice and cups provided).

**2. YOUTH SUNDAY NIGHT 6-8PM**—Dinner; Bible Study: *Thieves: Sneaky Sins that Steal Your Joy*

**3. WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES—SMALL GROUPS** STARTING JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> 7:00-8:15PM on the **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays** of each month, Adult Small Groups and Children Small Groups will be meeting at church. Please indicate your interest in attending by completing the enclosed card.

### **4. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Dec. 23 Christmas Eve Service at 7pm

Dec. 25 No worship Christmas Day

Jan. 1 Prayer Service 10:30am

### **5. CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECTS**—Details next Sunday

a. Metropolitan Baptist Center—Food items collected and help at the Center

b. Hamilton County Life Center—children gifts needed

(See Kathleen Hodnett or Raegan Aldarondo)

**6. PAL (“PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES”) MEETING**—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact [nancy1108smith@gmail.com](mailto:nancy1108smith@gmail.com) or 317-508-8149.

**7. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.

