

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Studies in the Gospel of Luke

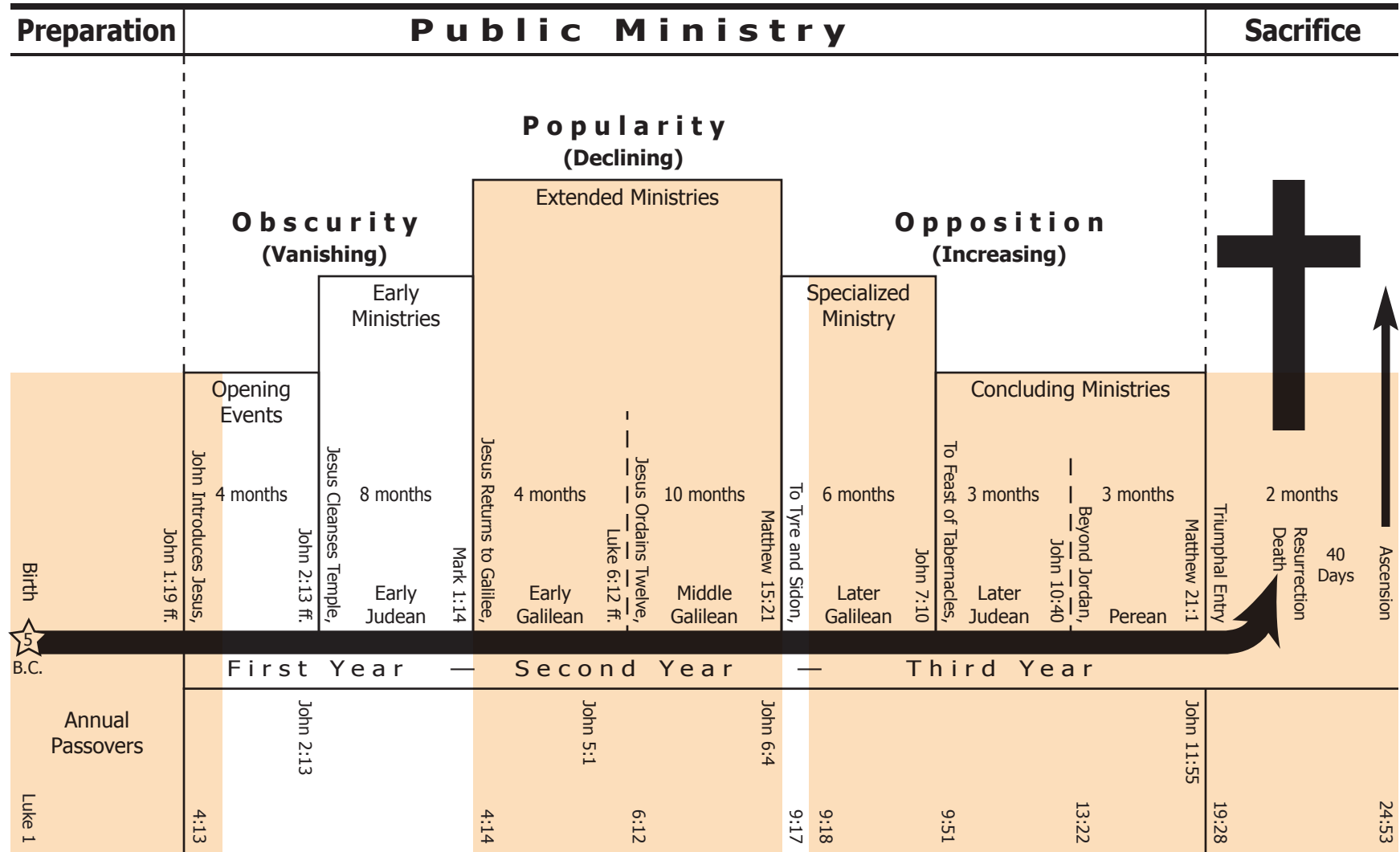
A Child Called John

Luke 1:39-80
Lesson 2

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
January 11, 2015

The Life of Christ

Showing coverage by Luke (shaded)



Gospel of Luke – Outline

1. Prologue (1:1-4)
2. The Preparation for Jesus' Ministry (1:5-4:13)
3. The Ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:50)
4. The Judean/Perean Ministry (9:51-19:27)
5. The Ministry in Jerusalem (19:28-21:38)
6. The Consummation of His Work (22:1-24:53)

Most Excellent Theophilus (1:1-4)

- ▶ An account of the Gospel message
- ▶ The exact truth from eyewitnesses
- ▶ Carefully investigated

Historical Setting

- ▶ Days of Herod the King – Edomite on the throne
- ▶ Zacharias and Elizabeth – Righteous in the sight of God
- ▶ Elizabeth “called barren”
- ▶ The silence of God

Gabriel announces the birth of John

- ▶ A spiritual renewal ministry (1:15-17)
- ▶ A skeptical father (1:18)
- ▶ Gabriel: God's Word is sufficient (1:19)
- ▶ Zacharias' silence (1:20)

Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus

- ▶ A virgin in the obscurity of Nazareth
- ▶ Son of the Most High; son of David
- ▶ “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”
- ▶ Gabriel’s answer:
 - The work of the Holy Spirit
 - The “sign” of Elizabeth
 - “Nothing will be impossible with God”

The Birth of John (1:39-80)

- ▶ Mary visits Elizabeth (1:39-45) – A lesson on faith
- ▶ Mary's song (1:46-56) – A song of salvation
- ▶ John's birth (1:57-66) – A great mercy
- ▶ Zacharias' prophecy/song (1:67-80) – His Holy Covenant

Mary Visits Elizabeth (1:39-45)

- ▶ Mary in a hurry to see Elizabeth
- ▶ Baby leaped in her womb – v. 44 “for joy”
- ▶ Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Blessed is *Mary* and blessed is *Mary’s Child*
- ▶ *Mary’s Child* is “my Lord”

Blessing

- ▶ charis – grace, favor
- ▶ eulogeo – to speak well of or praise; to cause to prosper or to make happy
- ▶ makarios – to pronounce happy or blessed
- ▶ God blesses – material and spiritual
- ▶ Men bless God – praise
- ▶ Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be God – Who has blessed us – every spiritual blessing
- ▶ Mary is blessed (1:42, 45, 48)

Mary's Blessing (1:45)

- ▶ Luke 1:28, 30 – favored (charis) + Lord is with you
- ▶ Luke 1:45, 48 – What is Mary's blessing?
- ▶ Luke 11:27-28 – more blessed than Mary
- ▶ John 20:29 – blessed to believe without seeing
- ▶ Galatians 3:6-9 – Abraham by faith
- ▶ Mary was blessed because she believed God's Word
- ▶ Mary sings of God's blessing

Mary's Song (1:46-56)

- ▶ Mary blesses the Lord, God my Savior
- ▶ Soul and spirit (Psalm 103:1)
- ▶ Divine “regard for” a slave (1:38)
- ▶ All generations will count me blessed
- ▶ The Mighty One has done great things for me

Great Things

- ▶ The Mighty One – great power
- ▶ The Holy One – unapproachable
- ▶ The Merciful One – Psalm 103:17
- ▶ Mighty deeds with His arm
 - Scatter the proud; bring down rulers
 - Exalt the humble; fill the hungry
 - Send away the rich empty handed
- ▶ Proverbs 10:22 – the blessing of the LORD makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it
- ▶ Luke 6:20-23; 1 Peter 5:6

Help to Israel (1:54-55)

- ▶ A national view of salvation for Israel
- ▶ He remembers
- ▶ His promise to Abraham and the fathers
 - Work of salvation is for the humble servant
 - Work of salvation is for the Nation Israel
 - Work of salvation is for God's creation (Rom. 8:20-22)
- ▶ Mary exalts the Savior of the world

Birth of John (1:57-66)

- ▶ Mercy – to the “barren” one
- ▶ Zacharias’ obedience
- ▶ Praise – bless God
- ▶ Fear and wonder – “What will this child *turn out to be?*”

Zacharias' Prophecy (Song) (1:67-80)

- ▶ Outline: Two long sentences
 - Proclamation (1:68-75)
 - Prediction (1:76-79)
- ▶ Chiastic structure

Zacharias' Prophecy

A - Visit (v. 68a)

B - Salvation for His people (v. 68b-69)

C - Prophet(s) (v. 70)

D - Enemies" (v. 71)

E - Covenant and oath with the fathers (v. 72-73)

D' - Enemies (v. 74-75)

C' - Prophet (v. 76)

B' - Salvation for His people (v. 77)

A' - Visit (v. 78-79)

Zacharias' Prophecy

- ▶ God fulfilling His Holy Covenant (1:68,72,78)
- ▶ A visitation
- ▶ The work of salvation for His people
- ▶ Prophetic ministry
- ▶ Enemies

The Gospel in the Old Testament

- ▶ Blessing by faith in the fulfillment of God's Promise
- ▶ Deliverance from sin and enemies of God
- ▶ Christ the Savior and King (house of David)
- ▶ The way of holiness, righteousness and peace
- ▶ The Eternal Kingdom of God
- ▶ The same Gospel for all time