

BIBLE TRIVIA – Luke 1

The Gospel according to Luke is the only one of the synoptic gospels to begin with a literary prologue. Making use of a formal, literary construction and vocabulary, the author writes the prologue in imitation of Hellenistic Greek writers and, in so doing, relates his story about Jesus to contemporary Greek and Roman literature. Luke is not only interested in the words and deeds of Jesus, but also in the larger context of the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of God in the Old Testament. As a 2nd and 3rd generation Christian, Luke acknowledges his debt to earlier eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, but claims that his contribution to this developing tradition is a complete and accurate account, told in an orderly manner, and intended to provide Theophilus (“friend of God,” literally) and other readers with certainty about earlier teachings they have received. (2)

1. How did Luke describe his information gathering to write this gospel? **CAREFUL INVESTIGATION (Luke 1:3)** (1)
2. Who did Luke write his gospel to? **THEOPHILUS (Luke 1:3)** (1)
“Friend of God”
Theophilus is thought to perhaps be Luke’s patron; he is also representative of a wider audience which needs upbuilding in faith. (3)
3. Who was John the Baptist’s father? **ZECHARIAH (Luke 1:5)** (1)
4. What was his job? **PRIEST (Luke 1:5)** (1)
[Priestly divisions - Wikipedia](#)
5. Who was Zechariah’s wife? **ELIZABETH (Luke 1:5)** (1)
Though childlessness was looked upon in contemporary Judaism as a curse or punishment for sin, it is intended here to present Elizabeth in a situation similar to that of some of the great mothers of important Old Testament figures: Sarah (Gn 15:3, 16:1); Rebekah (Gn 25:21); Rachel (Gn 29:31, 30:1); the mother of Samson and wife of Manoah (Jgs 13:2-3); Hannah (1 Sm:1-2).

6. From whose genealogical line did both Zechariah and Elizabeth descend? **AARON’S / LEVI’S (Luke 1:5)** (1)
7. What was Zechariah chosen by lot to do inside the temple? **TO BURN INCENSE (Luke 1:9)** (1)
8. What name did the angel tell Zechariah and Elizabeth to give their son? **JOHN (Luke 1:13)** (1)
9. What did the angel say in Luke 1 that the priest’s son should never drink? **WINE OR FERMENTED DRINK (Luke 1:15)** (1)
Just like Samson (Judges 13:4-5) and Samuel (1 Samuel 1:11) John is to be consecrated by Nazirite vow and set apart for the Lord’s service. (2) [Nazirite \(jewishvirtuallibrary.org\)](#)
10. The angel said John would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of what Old Testament prophet? **ELIJAH (Luke 1:17)**
11. The angel quoted what Old Testament prophet to confirm John the Baptist’s fulfillment of Scripture? **MALACHI (Luke 1:17)**
He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah: John is to be the messenger sent before Yahweh, as described in Mal 3:1-2. He is cast, moreover, in the role of the Old Testament fiery reformer, the prophet Elijah, who according to Mal 3:23 is sent before “the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.” (2)
12. What was the angel’s name? **GABRIEL (Luke 1:19)** (1)
I am Gabriel: “the angel of the Lord” is identified as Gabriel, the angel who in Dn 9:22-25 announces the seventy weeks of years and the coming of an anointed one, a prince. By alluding to Old Testament themes in vv 17 and 19, such as the coming of the day of the Lord and the dawning of the messianic era, Luke is presenting his interpretation of the significance of the births of John and Jesus. (2)
13. What affliction struck Zechariah because he did not believe the angel? **HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO SPEAK (Luke 1:20)** (1)
By depicting Zechariah as dumb, Luke in effect says that he is unable to complete the liturgy he began, for he cannot bless the people (1:21-23)...In 24:50-53 Jesus, who has taken over God’s Temple and is God’s Temple (19:28-44), who is the cornerstone of

the Temple of reconstituted Israel ((23:44-45), now blesses his disciples after he has completed the liturgy of his life. (3)

14. In what town did Mary the mother of Jesus live?

NAZARETH (Luke 1:26) (1)

The naming of this obscure town (see John 1:45) of some 150 people contributes to Luke's theme of God's sovereign grace active in human history. (2)

15. Who was Mary pledged to be married to? **JOSEPH** (Luke 1:27) (1)

Joseph means "May Yahweh add." (2)

16. Whose throne would Jesus be given, according to Luke 1?

THE THRONE OF DAVID (Luke 1:27) (1)

17. Over whose descendants did the angel say Mary's son would rule? **JACOB** (Luke 1:33) (1)

18. Why was Mary skeptical that a baby could be born to her?

SHE WAS A VIRGIN (Luke 1:34) (1)

19. Who did the angel say would allow her to be pregnant?

THE HOLY SPIRIT (Luke 1:35) (1)

20. Whose baby leapt in the womb when it came in contact with Mary? **ELIZABETH'S** (Luke 1:41) (1)

21. How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth during her visit?

THREE MONTHS (Luke 1:56) (1)

22. What did the people think Zechariah and Elizabeth's son should be named? **ZECHARIAH** (Luke 1:59) (1)

23. What name did Zechariah write on the writing table?

JOHN "Yahweh has shown favor" (Luke 1:63) (1)

Though naming a male child after the father is not completely unknown, the usual practice was to name the child after the grandfather. (2)

24. As soon as Zechariah wrote down that name, what happened to him? **HE WAS ABLE TO TALK** (Luke 1:64) (1)

The naming of the child John and Zechariah's recovery from his loss of speech should be understood as fulfilling the angel's announcement to Zechariah. (2)

25. Which two people are credited with songs in Luke 1?

MARY AND ZECHARIAH (Luke 1:46, 67) (1)

Although Mary is praised for being the mother of the Lord and because of her belief, she reacts as the servant in a psalm of praise, the Magnificat. Because there is no specific connection of the canticle to the context of Mary's pregnancy and her visit to Elizabeth, the Magnificat (with the exception of verse 48) may have been a Jewish Christian hymn that Luke found appropriate at this point in his story. Even if not composed by Luke, it fits in well with themes found elsewhere in Luke: joy and exultation in the Lord; the lowly being singled out for God's favor; the reversal of human fortunes; the fulfillment of Old Testament promises. (2)

Like the canticle of Mary (46-55) the canticle of Zechariah is only loosely connected with its context. Apart from verses 76-77, the hymn in speaking of a horn of our salvation (69) and the daybreak from on high (78) applies more closely to Jesus and his work than to John. (2)

A horn for our salvation: the horn is a common Old Testament figure for strength (Psalm 18:3; 75:5-6; 89:18; 112:9; 148:14). This description is applied to God in Psalm 18:3 and is here transferred to Jesus. (2)

The daybreak from on high: three times in the Old Testament (Jer 23:5; Zec 3:8; 6:12), the Greek word used here for daybreak translates the Hebrew word for "scion, branch," an Old Testament messianic title. (2)

26. Where did John live before, he appeared publicly to Israel?

THE DESERT / WILDERNESS (Luke 1:80) (1)

- (1). Schmidt, The Extreme New Testament Bible Trivia Challenge (Racine, Wisconsin, BroadStreet Publishing Group, LLC, 2016), 170-171.
- (2). The New American Bible, (Nashville: Catholic Bible Press, a division of Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991). 1143-1146.
- (3). Raymond E. Brown, S.S., Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm. (Eds.). The New Jerome Biblical Commentary. (Montreal, Québec: Novalis, 2011), 678-680.