## Bible Study 59

October 19th, 2022

Luke’s Gospel (continued)

Chapter 1: There are a few things we need to know about Luke. First that he was Greek, educated, possibly a physician and that he accompanied Paul on at least one of his Missionary journeys.

The Gospel was written some time in the Seventies or Eighties and is targeted towards the Gentiles.

Theme: Luke’s Gospel has two themes. First that Jesus came for everyone and that his church is a universal church. Second, that that church and ministry operates under the power of the Holy spirit.

There are many clues that point to these themes in the Gospel. Jesus in the Gospel deals with a wide variety of people; from Roman soldiers to foreigners. The Gospel healing stories go into greater detail, pointing to Luke’s medical knowledge. There are echoes of Paul in the Gospel story; constant references to the Holy Spirit and the fact that Jesus has been sent and works in and for the father.

Luke does something else in his Gospel. He explains Jewish words, customs and traditions as if he is addressing foreigners. The gospel is address to ‘Theophilus’. Who may or may not be a real person.

The Gospel begins, not with Jesus but with the Birth of John the Baptist. The role of Zechariah as priest is explained in some detail. Angels appear in the story and have a definite role. The dialogue is such that scholars have asked whether Luke had some close relationship with Mary and this Anawim group who had waited and prepared for the coming of the Messiah.

The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth closely parallels the Story of Abraham and Sarah in the OT.---Luke explains John’s consecration—no wine; filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke is full of vision, symbol, heavenly bodies and imagery.

Gabriel’s annunciation to Mary is similar to that to Zechariah. He names himself as sent by God. There is dialogue between him and Mary. This first chapter is deeply prophetic. It is the culmination of all the work of the prophets of the Old Testament and Messianic expectation.

# Everything promised by the prophets about the Messiah comes true in this chapter. It also recalls the promises to Abraham the father of the nation.

Notice the number of times that the word ‘Kingdom’ is used. Jesus is shepherding in a new kingdom. From verse 45 Mary recites a canticle of praise to God.

Again, in verse 67 Zechariah praises God, through recounting David and Abraham. Again, John grows in ‘the power of the Spirit.’

Read Chapters 1 & 2