

5/19/13

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK ONE

TITLE: INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND
PROLOGUE

TEXT: LUKE 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION: (1) TODAY WE EMBARK ON A
TREASURE HUNT TO STUDY THROUGH THE
GOSPEL OF LUKE.

* IN IT WE WILL DISCOVER GREAT RICHES AS
JESUS CHRIST IS PRESENTED AS THE SON OF
MAN, THE SAVIOR.

** FOR LUKE SHOWS US AN ALL POWERFUL
CREATOR TAKING ON THE FRAGILE FRAME OF A
MORTAL, A HUMAN BEING.

*** WE WILL SEE JESUS CLIMBING DOWN FROM
HIS HEAVENLY GLORY TO ENTER THE CLUTTER
AND CHAOS OF OUR FALLEN WORLD AND TO
SUBJECT HIMSELF TO OUR FRAILTIES, PAINS,
PASSIONS, SORROWS AND SICKNESS.

**** LUKE WILL PAINT A PORTRAIT OF JESUS CHRIST THAT WE DO NOT SEE IN THE OTHER 3 GOSPELS, WHICH ALL FOUR GOSPEL PRESENT A PERFECT PICTURE OF THE SAVIOR, A COMPOSITE PICTURE OF THE SON OF GOD AND THE SON OF MAN.

(2) HOWEVER, LUKE INCLUDES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF NEW MATERIAL IN HIS GOSPEL, FOR ACCORDING TO DARRELL L. BOCK 40% OF LUKE'S GOSPEL IS NOT FOUND IN THE OTHER GOSPELS, INCLUDING 7 OF **CHRIST'S MIRACLES** AND 17 OF HIS PARABLES.

* PARABLES LIKE THE GOOD SAMARITAN IN LUKE 10:25-37, THE RICH FOOL IN LUKE 12:13-21, THE BARREN FIG TREE IN LUKE 13:6-9, THE FOOLISH BUILDER IN LUKE 14:28-30, THE LOST SHEEP, THE LOST COIN, AND THE LOST SON IN LUKE 15:1-32, THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS IN LUKE 16:19-31, ALTHOUGH EVERYONE WOULD NOT AGREE CALLING IT A PARABLE BECAUSE A PERSON NAMED LAZARUS, A REAL PERSON IS IDENTIFIED.

** BEYOND THAT, THE PERSISTENT WIDOW IS TALKED ABOUT IN LUKE 18:1-8 AND THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR IN LUKE 18:9-14.

*** AND IN THESE PARABLES WE HAVE SOME RICH ETERNAL TREASURE THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY WITHOUT THE GOSPEL OF LUKE.

**** NOW BEYOND THE PARABLES, LUKE ALSO PRESENTED UNIQUE TRUTH ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND PEOPLE'S **RESPONSES** TO THE BABY JESUS AND THE UNIQUE TRUTH ABOUT **MARY AND ELIZABETH, MARY'S FAMILY** MEMBER WHO GAVE BIRTH TO JOHN THE BAPTIZER.

(3) AND LET ME BACK UP FOR A MOMENT AND ASK, WHY DID LUKE GIVE US THESE DIFFERENT SNAPSHOTS OF JESUS?

* WELL, LUKE PRESENTS JESUS AS A PERFECT MAN, THE SON OF MAN, LUKE EMPHASIZES THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST, HE PRESENTS CHRIST AS THE PERFECT HUMAN SAVIOR, AND OF COURSE PERFECTION COMMUNICATES DEITY.

** THEREFORE LUKE EMPHASIZES THE VIRGIN BIRTH, THE BABY JESUS, THE MOTHER OF JESUS AND HER RESPONSE, THE FORERUNNER OF **JESUS, SIMEON'S RESPONSE TO THE BABY, THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS BIRTH.**

*** THE POINT BEING, JESUS WAS HUMAN, HE WAS BORN, BUT HIS BIRTH WAS NOT LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN FOR HE HAD NO EARTHLY FATHER TO PASS ON THE SIN NATURE. AGAIN THE HUMANITY OF JESUS IS EMPHASIZED, SO MORE ABOUT HIS BIRTH AND MORE FACTS BY LUKE ABOUT THE EARTHLY LIFE OF JESUS OVER MATTHEW, MARK AND JOHN.

**** BEYOND THAT, LUKE EMPHASIZED THE UNIVERSAL MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL TO ALL KINDS OF PEOPLES ESPECIALLY TO GENTILES. IN FACT HIS GENEALOGY GOES BACK TO ADAM **UNLIKE MATTHEW'S WHOSE GENEALOGY WENT** BACK TO ABRAHAM THE FATHER OF THE JEWISH NATION.

(4) THEN LUKE OFTEN WROTE ABOUT SINNERS, THE POOR, THE OUTCASTS. EVEN SAMARITANS WERE PRESENTED AS COMING TO FAITH IN JESUS.

* LUKE WROTE FREQUENTLY ABOUT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

** LUKE EMPHASIZED THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS MORE THAN ANY OF THE OTHER GOSPELS, AGAIN COMMUNICATING HIS HUMANITY.

*** INTERESTINGLY, LUKE SAID MORE ABOUT MONEY AND MATERIAL THINGS THAN DID ANY OTHER AUTHOR IN THE N.T., THINGS WE AS HUMANS WRESTLE WITH EVERY DAY?

**** THE GOSPEL OF LUKE IS KNOWN AS THE MISSIONARY GOSPEL, FOR THE GOSPEL GOES OUT TO THE GENTILES AND JESUS IS PRESENTED AS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD - ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, GENTILES INCLUDED, NOT JUST JEWS.

(5) LUKE PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE OUTCASTS OF JEWISH SOCIETY, GENTILES, SAMARITANS, WOMEN, TAX COLLECTORS AND EVEN LEPERS.

* LUKE EMPHASIZED REPENTANCE, USING THE WORD REPENTED, REPENTS, REPENTANCE AND REPENT 14 TIMES IN HIS GOSPEL. QUOTE LUKE 5:32, LUKE 13:3, LUKE 15:10 AND LUKE 24:47.

** SO IN LUKE WE SEE THE GOSPEL CALLS FOR PEOPLE TO REPENT AND TURN TO THE SAVIOR. THERE IS NO EASY BELIEVISM HERE.

*** AND AS WE PUT ALL THOSE BACKGROUND **TRUTHS TOGETHER, THE PURPOSE OF LUKE'S** GOSPEL IS TO PRESENT AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST AND PRESENT HIM AS THE PERFECT HUMAN AND SAVIOR, THE SON OF MAN.

**** NOW SOME ADDITIONAL FOUNDATIONAL MATERIAL TO BUILD UPON. THE AUTHOR. AND THE DIVINE AUTHOR IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, BUT THE HUMAN AUTHOR IS LUKE. AND HIS NAME APPEARS ONLY 3 TIMES IN SCRIPTURE.

(6) IN COLOSSIANS 4:14, PAUL CALLS HIM THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN, SO HE WAS A DOCTOR. AND AS YOU READ THE CONTEXT OF COLOSSIANS 4:10-14 MOST SCHOLARS BELIEVE HE WAS A GENTILE, THE ONLY GENTILE AUTHOR OF THE N.T.

* IN II TIMOTHY 4:11 PAUL SAID ONLY LUKE WAS **WITH HIM AT ROME, WHICH IS PAUL'S LAST** EPISTLE, TOWARD THE END OF HIS LIFE WHERE ACCORDING TO TRADITION PAUL WAS BEHEADED. BUT LUKE WAS THERE MOST LIKELY CARING FOR AND SERVING PAUL AS HIS PERSONAL DOCTOR. HE WAS VERY LOYAL TO PAUL.

** AND THEN IN PHILEMON V. 24 LUKE IS **CALLED PAUL'S FELLOW LABORER. AND THOSE** ARE THE ONLY PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE THAT USE HIS NAME.

*** HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT LUKE TRAVELED WITH PAUL ON SOME OF HIS MISSIONARY **JOURNEYS FROM WHAT ARE CALLED THE "WE"** PASSAGES IN ACTS 16:10-17; ACTS 20:5-21:18; AND LUKE 27:1-28:16.

**** AND LUKE WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE THE BOOK OF ACTS, A SEQUEL TO THE BOOK OF LUKE.

(7) AS YOU COMBINE THE 24 CHAPTERS OF LUKE AND THE 28 CHAPTERS OF ACTS, YOU FIND OUT THAT LUKE WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE 2,157 VERSES IN THE N.T., THE LARGEST PORTION OF THE N.T., MORE THAN PAUL, ABOUT 28 PERCENT OF THE GREEK N.T.

* AND NOTE THAT LUKE IS THE LARGEST N.T. BOOK IN THE NUMBER OF VERSES IN IT. SO GOD USES LUKE IN A PROFOUND WAY IN THE N.T., NO ONE WRITES MORE THAN HIM.

**** NOW AGAIN, LUKE'S NAME IS USED ONLY 3** TIMES IN THE N.T., HE WAS A HUMBLE DOCTOR, **WOW, A HUMBLE DOCTOR, AND HE DIDN'T** WANT TO EXALT HIMSELF AND DOES NOT MENTION HIS NAME IN LUKE OR ACTS, HE DID NOT HAVE A GOD COMPLEX.

*** AND TWO LAST THINGS ABOUT LUKE, THE AUTHOR, NO. 1 HE WAS NOT AN APOSTLE, AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW DID NOT TRAVEL WITH CHRIST LIKE THE 12.

***** NO. 2 LUKE'S VOCABULARY SHOWS THAT HE WAS EDUCATED AS A DOCTOR, AND THAT HE WAS A DOCTOR ALSO COMES OUT IN FREQUENT REFERENCES TO ILLNESSES AND DIAGNOSES.**

(8) MOVING ON, NEXT, THE DATE. LUKE WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AROUND A.D. 60-61, BEFORE THE BOOK OF ACTS WHICH WAS WRITTEN AROUND A.D. 62-63.

* NOW WHERE LUKE WROTE FROM IS NOT CERTAIN. SOME IN THE EARLY CHURCH SPECULATED THAT HE WROTE IT FROM THE GREEK PROVINCE OF ACHAIA, OTHERS ARGUE FROM ROME, EVEN OTHERS FROM CAESAREA.

** BUT SINCE LUKE WAS WITH PAUL DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT IN ROME ACCORDING TO COLOSSIANS 4:14 AND PHILEMON V. 24, ROME IS MOST LIKELY THE PLACE LUKE WROTE FROM.

*** NEXT, THE KEY VERSE IS LUKE 19:10 WHICH GOES ALONG WITH THE THEME, MY TITLE OF OUR STUDY, LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS COME, FOR LUKE 19:10 SAYS: (QUOTE IT)

* AND AGAIN THAT KEY VERSE COMMUNICATES **LUKE'S REPETITIOUS THEME OF PRESENTING** JESUS AS THE PERFECT HUMAN, THE SON OF MAN, WHO CAME AS THE SEEKING SAVIOR, WHICH BY THE WAY REMINDS US THAT GOD **MUST SEEK US FIRST, FOR WE DON'T** NATURALLY SEEK HIM IN OUR DEPRAVITY, ROMANS 3:10&11, JOHN 6:37, PSALM 14:1-3.

** AND I AM THANKFUL THAT THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE LOST PEOPLE LIKE ME, NOT POTENTIALLY BUT ACTUALLY.

*** NOW NEXT, KEY PEOPLE. AND OF COURSE LUKE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, BUT ALSO ELIZABETH, ZACHARIAS, JOHN THE BAPTIZER, MARY, THE 12, HEROD THE GREAT, PILATE AND MARY MAGDALENE.

**** THEN KEY PLACES. BETHLEHEM, THE PLACE JESUS WAS BORN, THEN THE REGIONS OF GALILEE AND JUDEA AND THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.

(9) NOW LAST OF ALL TODAY UNDER BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A SIMPLE OUTLINE OF LUKE ALONG WITH SOME STRUCTURE OF THE GOSPEL.

*** AND HERE'S A SIMPLE OUTLINE: AFTER THE PROLOGUE IN CHAPTER 1 VERSES ONE THROUGH FOUR, NO. 1 WE HAVE THE JOURNEY FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH IN 1:5-4:13; NO. 2 THE JOURNEY THROUGHOUT GALILEE IN 4:14-9:17; NO. 3 THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM IN 9:18-19:27; AND NO. 4 THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS, 19:28-24:53, AS JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM IN HIS TRIUMPHAL TEARFUL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM ULTIMATELY TO DIE. LUKE 19:28-24:53 TALKS ABOUT WHAT JESUS DID IN JERUSALEM.**

** NOW STRUCTURALLY, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO DIVIDE THE BOOK OF LUKE INTO 5 SECTIONS FROM OUR SIMPLE 4 POINT OUTLINE. AND I AM **BORROWING THIS FROM DARRELL C. BOCK'S COMMENTARY ON LUKE.**

*** SECTION NO. 1 CAN BE CALLED THE INFANCY MATERIAL, LUKE 1:1-2:52. **AND IT'S NOT JUST THE INFANCY OF JESUS, IT EXTENDS INTO JESUS' PRETEEN YEARS.**

**** **NO. 2 THE SECOND UNIT SHOWS JOHN'S CALL TO PREPARE A PEOPLE FOR JESUS AND CHRIST'S QUALIFICATIONS TO BE THE PROMISED ONE, LUKE 3:1-4:13.**

(10) NO. 3 THE THIRD SECTION IS THE GALILEAN MINISTRY SECTION WHICH HIGHLIGHTS THE ACTIVITY AND POWER OF THE LORD, LUKE 4:14-9:50.

* NO. 4 THE FOURTH SECTION IS THE JERUSALEM JOURNEY SECTION, WHICH IS THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE GOSPEL THAT TREATS THE SUBJECT OF DISCIPLESHIP, LUKE 9:51-19:44.

** AND THEN THE FINAL SECTION COVERS THE **DETAIL OF JESUS' LAST DAYS IN JERUSALEM,** HIS TRIAL, HIS DEATH, HIS RESURRECTION, WHICH COVERS LUKE 19:45-24:53.

*** AND I KNOW THIS IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM THE OUTLINE I JUST GAVE YOU, BUT ADDS A LITTLE MORE DETAIL.

**** NOW WITH ALL OF THAT BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL, WE COME TO THE PROLOGUE OF THE BOOK OF LUKE WHICH COVERS CHAPTER 1 VERSES 1-4, AND THIS WILL HELP US SOME MORE IN COMMUNICATING **LUKE'S PURPOSE.**

(11) AND IN WORKING THROUGH THE PROLOGUE, THAT WILL BE OUR ONLY POINT, THE PROLOGUE, LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE.

I. THE PROLOGUE, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW THE FIRST FOUR VERSES OF LUKE'S PROLOGUE ARE ONE LONG SENTENCE IN THE GREEK LANGUAGE.

* AND A PROLOGUE IS A PREFACE, IT INFORMS **US OF THE AUTHOR'S INTENTIONS, HIS PURPOSE AND APPROACH.**

** A PROLOGUE IS AN INTRODUCTION OF WHAT IS TO BE WRITTEN AND WHY. A PROLOGUE IS LIKE A ROAD MAP THAT TELLS US WHERE WE ARE HEADED, WHERE WE ARE GOING.

*** AND THE FIRST THING THAT LUKE WANTS US TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT HIS GOSPEL IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE.

**** FOR HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT OTHERS HAD UNDERTAKEN TO RECORD WHAT JESUS HAD DONE, FOR HE SAYS IN V. 1, THAT MANY HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO COMPILE A NARRATIVE, AN ACCOUNT OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AMONG US.

1. AND MOST LIKELY THIS REFERENCE IS TO INSPIRED AND NON-INSPIRED BIOGRAPHIES, ACCOUNTS OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

* AND INSPIRED ONES WOULD BE MATTHEW AND MARK, WHICH MOST LIKELY WERE WRITTEN BEFORE LUKE, AND OTHER SOURCES WOULD BE NON-INSPIRED BOOKS THAT ARE NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE OR NEVER ACCEPTED BECAUSE OF INACCURACY OR ERROR AS A PART OF THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE.

** **SO LUKE'S GOAL WAS NOT TO PRODUCE JUST** ANOTHER BIOGRAPHY OF JESUS, BUT TO COMPILE, TO COMPOSE, TO ARRANGE A BIOGRAPHY OF JESUS CHRIST ACCURATELY TO MAKE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO HELP COMPLETE THE PICTURE OF JESUS CHRIST, AS JOHN LATER IN HIS GOSPEL WOULD GIVE US THE FINAL WORD.

*** AND ALL OF THIS IS DIRECTED BY INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**** IT IS TO SAY, **LUKE WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S** CHOICE TO COMPLIMENT MATTHEW AND MARK TO GIVE US A PERFECTLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST, WRITTEN TO GENTILES, HE BEING A GENTILE HIMSELF.

2. AND LUKE UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY **BECAUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S DIVINE WORK OF INSPIRATION "OF THE THINGS ACCOMPLISHED AMONG US."**

* MEANING: LUKE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOSPEL ITSELF, THE GOOD NEWS, IS THE STORY OF WHAT GOD ACCOMPLISHES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST IN THE LIVES OF SINNERS, SEEKING AND SAVING THE LOST – LUKE 19:10, THE KEY VERSE.

** AND WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED INDICATES THE COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF THE SAVING REDEMPTIVE PLAN OF GOD.

*** **IT IS TO SAY, LUKE'S GOSPEL, LIKE THE OTHER 3 INSPIRED GOSPELS, EMPHASIZES THE THEME OF DIVINE ACCOMPLISHMENT.**

**** HIS GOSPEL CHRONICLES HOW GOD ACCOMPLISHED SALVATION FOR HIS PEOPLE, HIS ELECT ONES, THROUGH THE SAVING WORK OF HIS SON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ONE WHOM SEEKS AND SAVES THE LOST.

3. SO ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS PROLOGUE IS TO COMMUNICATE A PURPOSE STATEMENT FOR THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, TO COMPILE AN ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHY HE CAME AND WHAT HE WOULD ACCOMPLISH - SALVATION FOR SINNERS, JESUS CAME TO SAVE PEOPLE! VERSE ONE IS A PURPOSE STATEMENT.

*** THEN BEGINNING IN V. 2, LUKE STARTS TO TALK ABOUT HIS METHOD OF FULFILLING THIS PURPOSE. LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 2. NOW THE FIRST HUMAN METHOD THAT WAS USED TO COMPILE THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF LUKE WAS THE SOURCE MATERIAL HANDED DOWN TO HIM BY THOSE WHO WERE EYEWITNESSES AND SERVANTS OF THE WORD.

* MEANING LUKE WAS NOT AN EYEWITNESS TO THE EVENTS HE DESCRIBES IN HIS GOSPEL. AND HE ADMITS THIS FROM THE OUTSET.

** LUKE WAS NOT AN APOSTLE. HOWEVER, LUKE WAS A CLOSE COMPANION OF THE **APOSTLES, AND THEY OBSERVED JESUS'** MINISTRY FIRSTHAND, THEY WERE EYEWITNESSES OF IT, A REQUIREMENT TO BE AN APOSTLE.

*** AND THESE EYEWITNESSES WERE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOURCES WHO HANDED DOWN, **AND THE WORD "HANDED DOWN" IS A** TECHNICAL TERM COMMUNICATING, DENOTING THE PASSING ON OF AUTHORITATIVE TRUTH, THE TRUTH INFORMATION **UPON WHICH LUKE'S** ACCOUNT WAS BASED.

**** SO THE TRUTH OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST WAS HANDED DOWN, DELIVERED AS AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING TO LUKE.

1. **AND UNDERSTAND, LUKE'S** ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS USE OF EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS MUST NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A DISCLAIMER OF DIVINE INSPIRATION FOR HIS GOSPEL.

* FOR THE PROCESS OF INSPIRATION NEVER BYPASSED OR OVERRODE THE PERSONALITIES, VOCABULARIES, WRITING STYLES OR LIFE EXPERIENCES **OF THE BIBLE'S HUMAN AUTHORS.**

** FOR THEIR UNIQUE TRAITS ARE STAMPED ON ALL 66 BOOKS OF SCRIPTURE.

*** BELOVED, THE HOLY SPIRIT USED THE **BIBLE'S AUTHOR'S KNOWLEDGE, LUKE'S** KNOWLEDGE, GAVE THEM, HIM ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, GUIDED, SUPERINTENDED THEIR SELECTION OF MATERIAL AND CONTROLLED EVERY WORD SO THAT THEY WROTE EXACTLY, PRECISELY, PERFECTLY, WHAT GOD WANTED WRITTEN.

**** THEREFORE EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE AND **LUKE'S ORIGINAL ACCOUNT IS INFALLIBLY AND** INERRANTLY TRUE.

2. THE BIBLE DOES NOT CONTAIN THE WORD OF **GOD, IT IS THE WORD OF GOD. IT'S NOT JUST** THE IDEAS THAT ARE INSPIRED - GOD BREATHED, BUT THE ACTUAL WORDS OF EVERY PORTION OF THE BIBLE ARE INSPIRED.

* THIS IS CALLED VERBAL PLENARY (PLE-NA-REE) INSPIRATION.

** AND IN THAT PHRASE, VERBAL MEANS THAT EVERY WORD OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD GIVEN. EVERY SINGLE WORD IN THE BIBLE IS THERE BECAUSE GOD WANTED IT THERE.

*** PLENARY MEANS ALL THE PARTS OF THE BIBLE ARE EQUALLY AUTHORITATIVE.

**** AND THE WORD INSPIRATION MEANS THAT GOD SUPERNATURALLY GUIDED LUKE AND THE OTHER AUTHORS OF SCRIPTURE TO WRITE THE EXACT THINGS THAT HE WANTED EXPRESSED. AND THE RESULT IS HOLY SCRIPTURE, THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD.

3. AND LET ME GIVE YOU SOME SCRIPTURES THAT COMMUNICATE THESE TRUTHS.

* IN I CORINTHIANS 2:12&13 PAUL WAS INSPIRED TO SAY -

V. 12 - **"NOW WE HAVE RECEIVED, NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD, BUT THE SPIRIT WHO IS FROM GOD, SO THAT WE MAY KNOW THE THINGS FREELY GIVEN TO US BY GOD,**

V. 13 - WHICH THINGS WE ALSO SPEAK, NOT IN WORDS TAUGHT BY HUMAN WISDOM, BUT IN THOSE TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT, COMBINING **SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS WITH SPIRITUAL WORDS."**

** NOW THE WE AND THE US IN THESE VERSES ARE THE AUTHORS OF SCRIPTURE, AND THE MEANS WAS INSPIRATION THAT TURNED THE SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS INTO SPIRITUAL WORDS TO GIVE LIFE.

*** QUOTE MATTHEW 4:4, II TIMOTHY 3:16&17, II PETER 1:20&21, PSALM 19:7, PROVERBS 30:5&6, LUKE 16:17.

****** AND THEN ROMANS 15:4 SAYS: "FOR WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN EARLIER TIMES WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION, SO THAT THROUGH PERSEVERANCE AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE."**

4. NOW I HAVE GIVEN YOU ALL THESE VERSES TO ENCOURAGE YOU THAT WE HAVE A COMPLETE, PERFECT, HOLY, INSPIRED, GOD BREATHED BOOK.

* AND ALTHOUGH LUKE WAS NOT AN EYEWITNESS OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST, WHAT WAS GIVEN TO HIM WAS HANDED DOWN BY EYEWITNESSES AND SERVANTS OF THE WORD, SERVANTS LIT. OF THE GOSPEL. THEY WERE PASSING ON AUTHORITATIVE TRUTH.

** AND THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDED EVERY WORD THROUGH LUKE TO RECORD EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED RECORDED USING THE PERSONALITY, VOCABULARY AND WRITING STYLE OF LUKE, TO GIVE US THIS BLESSED GOSPEL. THESE SERVANTS **OF THE WORD WERE USED IN LUKE'S** LIFE TO COMPILE THE BOOK OF LUKE UNDER THE **HOLY SPIRIT'S DIRECTION.**

5. NOW LET ME SUMMARIZE. IN V. 1 LUKE GIVES HIS PURPOSE STATEMENT. IN V. 2 LUKE STARTS TO TALK ABOUT THE METHOD OF FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE THROUGH EYEWITNESSES, AND IN V. 3 HE CONTINUES TO TALK ABOUT HIS METHOD OF FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE, PAINSTAKING INVESTIGATION, LUKE WAS AN HISTORIAN, A RESEARCHER. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 3. NOW IN THE FIRST FEW WORDS **OF V. 3, LUKE SAYS: "IT SEEMED FITTING FOR ME AS WELL," WHICH MEANS IT WAS GOOD, IT** WAS PROPER FOR HIM TO WRITE HIS ACCOUNT FO THE LIFE OF CHRIST, HIS GOSPEL.

* NOW WHY?

**** WELL, CONTINUE ON IN V. 3, "HE INVESTIGATED EVERYTHING CAREFULLY FROM THE BEGINNING."**

*** IT IS TO SAY, LUKE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED ALL THE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, HE WAS INVOLVED IN CAREFUL AND THOROUGH RESEARCH TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF HIS EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS WERE HISTORICALLY ACCURATE AND CAREFULLY RESEARCHED.

****** AND LUKE'S CAREFUL AND THOROUGH RESEARCH GAVE HIM A PRECISE UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS CHRIST'S LIFE AND MINISTRY.**

1. AND AS A RESULT, LUKE WAS CLEARLY AND UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO WRITE HIS GOSPEL **UNDER THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INSPIRATION. (THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE IS ACCURATELY - PERFECTLY.)**

* AND AS LUKE CHECKED THINGS OUT, AS HE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND RESEARCHED ALL HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST, HE WROTE IT OUT IN CONSECUTIVE ORDER, WE SEE IN V. 3.

** BELOVED, LUKE TELLS US HIS GOAL WAS TO WRITE AN ORDERLY ACCOUNT, IN CONSECUTIVE ORDER.

***** AND THE PHRASE "CONSECUTIVE ORDER" IN THE NAU IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD AS A REFERENCE TO THE LOGICAL, SYSTEMATIC NATURE OF LUKE'S WRITING.**

****** AND THAT'S WHY THE ESV, THE NIV AND THE NKJV TRANSLATE THIS PHRASE AS "AN ORDERLY ACCOUNT."**

2. IT IS TO SAY, IT'S NOT ALL CHRONOLOGICAL, SOMETIMES THE FLOW IS THEMATIC OR DOCTRINAL IN NATURE WHERE HE IS LED TO COMMUNICATE A TEACHING.

* AND PUT TOGETHER AN ORDERLY ACCOUNT
MEANS, LUKE'S GOAL WAS TO LEAD HIS
READERS TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL BY MEANS OF
HIS CAREFULLY RESEARCHED, LOGICAL
SYSTEMATIC PRESENTATION OF THE TRUTH
CONCERNING GOD'S SAVING PURPOSE IN
CHRIST.

** HIS POINT OF VIEW IS DIRECTED FROM A
WELL EDUCATED GENTILE HISTORIAN
INVESTIGATIVE DOCTOR'S PERSPECTIVE THUS A
UNIQUE VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GOSPEL.

*** NOW FINALLY IN V. 3, LUKE ADDRESSES HIS
MASSIVE THOROUGH INSPIRED WORK TO A
SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, AS HE DID IN THE BOOK OF
ACTS AS GREG READ ABOUT EARLIER IN ACTS 1,
TO A MAN NAMED THEOPHILUS.

**** AND SCRIPTURE GIVES US NO PERSONAL
DETAILS OF HIM.

3. HOWEVER HERE IN LUKE 1:3, A TITLE IS GIVEN TO HIM, MOST EXCELLENT THEOPHILUS.

* AND THAT TITLE MAY SUGGEST THAT THEOPHILUS WAS FROM THE UPPER LEVEL OF SOCIETY, A PERSON OF RANK.

** AND THE REASON I SAY THAT IS LUKE IN THE BOOK OF ACTS USES THAT SAME DESIGNATION, MOST EXCELLENT, TO TALK ABOUT THE ROMAN GOVERNORS FELIX AND FESTUS IN ACTS 23:26 - **"CLAUDIUS LYSIAS, TO THE MOST EXCELLENT GOVERNOR FELIX, GREETINGS."**

*** AND THEN LUKE SAYS IN ACTS 24:3 - **"WE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS IN EVERY WAY AND EVERYWHERE, MOST EXCELLENT FELIX, WITH ALL THANKFULNESS."**

**** AND LASTLY IN ACTS 26:25, THE SCRIPTURE SAID: **BUT PAUL SAID, "I AM NOT OUT OF MY MIND, MOST EXCELLENT FESTUS, BUT I UTTER WORDS OF SOBER TRUTH."**

4. SO IT APPEARS THAT THEOPHILUS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A ROMAN OFFICIAL, MOST LIKELY A GENTILE, AND HIS NAME LIT. MEANS LOVER OF GOD, BELOVED OF GOD, AND FRIEND OF GOD, SUGGESTING THAT HE WAS A CHRISTIAN, AND IF HE WAS AN UNESTABLISHED CHRISTIAN WHO NEEDED ASSURANCE, PERHAPS A FAIRLY NEW BELIEVER. **AGAIN WE DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM.**

* BUT V. 4 ADDRESSES **LUKE'S DESIRE FOR THIS** MAN IN WHAT HE WANTS FOR HIM. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 4. NOW ACCORDING TO THE END OF V. 4, THEOPHILUS HAD ALREADY BEEN TAUGHT CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT JESUS, WHICH WOULD LEAD ME TO THINK HE WAS A CHRISTIAN. FOR THE GREEK WORD TAUGHT IS THE WORD KATA-HAY-O FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD CATECHISM, WHICH GIVES TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION THROUGH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, A WAY TO TEACH.

* HOWEVER SOME OF THAT TEACHING HAD BEEN INCOMPLETE OR UNCLEAR AND LUKE WANTED **THEOPHILUS TO “KNOW THE EXACT TRUTH.”**

** AND THE WORD TRANSLATED EXACT OR CERTAINTY, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE LIT. MEANS ACCURATE, RELIABLE, UNDOUBTED TRUTH, SOMETHING THAT PROVIDES SAFETY, IT PROTECTS.

*** THEREFORE LUKE PROVIDED FOR THEOPHILUS AND ALL OF US TODAY, A PRECISE, ACCURATE AND COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL AND THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST.

**** AND THROUGH A SPIRIT EMPOWERED EFFORT LUKE WOULD BRING A PRECISE ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH CONCERNING THE LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, ONE THAT WOULD PROTECT THEOPHILUS AND US TODAY FROM ERROR.

1. WE NEED TO KNOW THE EXACT TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

AND IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION (1) ISN'T
IT GREAT IN A RELATIVISTIC, PLURALISTIC,
HUMANISTIC, POSTMODERN SOCIETY YOU CAN
"KNOW THE EXACT TRUTH!"

* I MEAN RELATIVISM COMMUNICATES THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES AND EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE, YOUR FEELINGS. AND WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG IS DETERMINED BY YOU, YOUR EXPERIENCE, YOUR REASONING, OR YOUR TRADITION.

**** SO PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH CAN**
NEVER BE EXACT, IN FACT THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTE TRUTHS. **THAT'S WHY YOU MUST BE**
TOLERANT OF OTHER BELIEFS, THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS TO GOD, AND NO ONE HAS THE EXACT TRUTH, THE EXACT WAY.

*** HOWEVER LUKE WRITES TO THEOPHILUS AND US TODAY AND SAYS WE CAN KNOW THE EXACT TRUTH, THE PRECISE TRUTH, AN ACCURATE WORD FROM GOD.

**** AND IN THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION AND VERBAL PLENARY INSPIRATION, THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY TRUTH AND CALLS ITSELF THE TRUTH.

(2) SO IN A WORLD OF LIES AND ERROR WE HAVE THE TRUTH! WE HAVE A FINAL AUTHORITY, THUS SAYS THE LORD, THUS THE BIBLE IS THE SOLE GUIDE TO FAITH.

* AND THE BIBLE IS THE EXACT TRUTH OF HOW SINNERS CAN BE RECONCILED TO A HOLY GOD AND COME IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

** IT IS THROUGH THE SON OF MAN, THE SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO CAME ON A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST, HALLELUJAH.

***** IF YOU DON'T KNOW HIM AS YOUR SAVIOR**
AND LORD TODAY, TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANT
FAITH, THE ONE WHO IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE.

**** AND BELIEVER WE HAVE A PERFECT
INSPIRED HOLY BOOK THAT WE ARE SANCTIFIED
THROUGH, JOHN 17:17.

(3) AND LUKE GAVE US THE EXACT TRUTH TO BE
SANCTIFIED THROUGH IN PERFECT
PRESENTATION OF THE SON OF MAN, THE
SAVIOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

* MAY WE BE ENCOURAGED TODAY THAT WE
KNOW THE EXACT TRUTH, THROUGH A BOOK OF
TRUTH THAT WILL MAKE US MORE LIKE JESUS
CHRIST.

** MAY WE BE ENCOURAGED AND ASSURED IN
THE BOOK AND MAY WE ENGRAFT IT INTO OUR
LIVES, TO LIVE THE TRUTH. (LET'S PRAY)