

What is the Gospel? The Good News According to Dr. Luke (Luke 24:13 – 53)

At the beginning of his gospel Dr. Luke¹ states his aim to write an orderly and reliable account of the promises that God fulfilled through Jesus Christ (Luke 1:1 – 4).

Fulfilment is a central theme in Luke's message of good news. The word, 'fulfilled' implies that certain hopes, dreams and expectations have been satisfied. With this in mind, read the following passages from Luke's opening two chapters, being attentive to the joyful note of hope and fulfilment found in the following accounts:

- The expectant song of Mary regarding her promised son (Luke 1:46 – 55)
- Elizabeth's blessing upon Mary and her unborn child (Luke 1:39 - 45)
- The prophetic song of Zechariah about the Messiah's coming (Luke 1:67- 75)
- Simeon's long-awaited blessing of the infant Christ (Luke 2:25 – 32).
- The prophet Anna's worshipful words about the baby Jesus (Luke 2:36 – 38)

1. Now read Luke 4:14 – 21. What did Jesus mean when he said, "*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*"?

2. Read Luke 18:31 - 34. Explain why the things that Jesus describes had to be fulfilled.

3. Read Luke 22:7 – 16. What did Jesus mean when he said that he wouldn't eat the Passover meal again until it is finally fulfilled in the kingdom of God?

4. Luke 24:44 tells us that just before Jesus ascended into heaven he said to his disciples, "*This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.*" Reflect back on our series thus far. What are some of the ways in which Jesus has fulfilled God's promises?

5. Read Luke 24:13 – 53. Discuss your hope in some of the promises of God that you are still waiting to see fulfilled?

¹ Dr. Luke was a close friend and mission partner of the Apostle Paul (See Colossians 4:14; Philemon 23 – 24 and 2 Timothy 4:9 – 11). Based on internal Biblical evidence, as well as external evidence, Luke is almost certainly the author of the two-part Biblical works of Luke and Acts. Based on the 'we' passages that begin at Acts 16:10, it seems that Luke met Paul and began travelling with him from Troas (see Acts 16:6 – 10). Luke is considered a very reliable and trustworthy source by those who have studied his writings.