

# LUKE 1-2

## Introduction



# Outline

- \* Read Luke 1:5-4:15 and questions
- \* Overall shape
- \* Literary genre of Luke 1:5-4:15
- \* Historicity



# Overall Shape

- \* The “career” of Jesus really starts in 4:14-30
- \* 1:5-4:15 makes up the first major unit
- \* Three episodes dealing with John and Jesus
  1. 1:5-25 corresponds to 1:26-38 (1:39-56 = transition)
  2. 1:57-80 corresponds to 2:1-52
  3. 3:1-20 corresponds to 3:21-4:15



# Overall Shape

- \* John = prophet (1:16-17; 1:76; 3:1-6)
- \* Jesus = Messiah (1:32-33; 1:69; 2:4, 11; 3:23-38)
- \* Jesus = Son of God (1:35, 2:49; 3:22)



# Literary Genre

Biography, including the following elements

1. Prepublic career of a great person
2. Family background
3. Miraculous conception
4. Omens and other predictions of future greatness
5. Childhood prodigies



# Literary Genre

Suetonius Lives of the Twelve Caesars Augustus 94, as follows:

1. Portents (6 of 14 items)
2. Dreams (3 of 14 items)
3. Prophecies (2 of 14 items)
4. Childhood Prodigies (2 of 14 items)
5. Miraculous conception by Apollo (1 of 14 items)



# Literary Genre

1. Two angelophanies
  - 1:26-38 (birth and destiny)
  - 2:8-20 (birth of the saviour)
2. Four prophecies
  - 1:67-70 by Zechariah
  - 2:25-35 by Simeon
  - 2:36-38 by Anna
  - 3:16-17 by John the Baptist



# Literary Genre

## 3. Portent

- 1:41-45 (portent and prophetic interpretation)

## 4. Event

- 3:21-22 (= 1:41-45; portent and interpretation)
- Descent of the Holy Spirit; bath qol

## 5. Prodigies

- 2:41-51 (astounds the rabbis)
- 4:1-13 (defeats the devil)

## 6. Family

- Genealogy, via David to Adam



# Literary Genre

Suetonius, again:

Having reached this point, it will not be out of place to add an account of the omens which occurred before he was born, on the very day of his birth, and afterwards, from which it was possible to anticipate and perceived his future greatness and uninterrupted good fortune.

Augustus §94



# Literary Genre

- \* A reader of Luke, familiar with the conventions of biographical writings, would have taken 1:5-4:15 as an anticipation / prophecy / foreshadowing of the future career of Jesus.
- \* In other words, the reader is provided with a detailed theological description of the hero before the real narrative starts in 4:16.



# Historicity

The birth narratives share certain features:

- The child Jesus, the parents Mary and Joseph
- Annunciations, virginal conception
- Nazareth and Bethlehem
- Herod the Great
- Genealogies



# Historicity

Matthew

Genealogy to Adam

Annunciation to Joseph

The Magi and Star

The Holy Innocents

Egypt

Bethlehem - Nazareth

5 Major Citations

Luke

Genealogy to Adam

Annunciation to Mary

Shepherds

John the Baptist

Nazareth - Bethlehem

Citations and echoes