

A bright star with a cross-like shape at the top, casting a beam of light down onto a city at night. The city is illuminated by warm lights, and the background is a dark, starry sky with silhouettes of mountains.

THE MISSION OF

Christ

Part 2

To Introduce Us to God's
Upside Down and
Backwards
KINGDOM

Luke 1:1

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us.

Luke 1:2

They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples.

Luke 1:3

Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus,

Luke 1:4

so you can be certain of the truth of
everything you were taught.

Luke 1:5

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah.

He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron.

Luke 1:6

Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations.

Luke 1:7

They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

Luke 1:8

One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week.

Luke 1:9

As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.

Luke 1:10

**While the incense was being burned,
a great crowd stood outside, praying.**

Luke 1:11

**While Zechariah was in the sanctuary,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him,
standing to the right of the incense
altar.**

Luke 1:12

Zechariah was shaken and
overwhelmed with fear when he saw
him.

Luke 1:13

But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.

Luke 1:14

**You will have great joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth,**

Luke 1:15

for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.

Luke 1:16

And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:17a

He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord.

Luke 1:17b

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

Luke 1:18

Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

Luke 1:19

Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!

Luke 1:20

But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

Luke 1:21

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long.

Luke 1:22

When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary.

Luke 1:23

When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home.

Luke 1:24

Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months.

Luke 1:25

“How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. “He has taken away my reproach among men.”

A night scene with a dark, starry sky. A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned at the top center, with a thick, white beam of light shining down from it towards a town in the distance. The town consists of several white buildings with glowing windows, situated on a flat, dark landscape. In the background, there are dark, rolling hills or mountains. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

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Principle #1

The arrival of God in the flesh on earth was designed to wreck and then correct our understanding of God and His upside down and backwards kingdom.

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Principle #1

The arrival of God in the flesh on earth was designed to wreck and then correct our understanding of God and His upside down and backwards kingdom.

Principle #2

Because God's Kingdom is upside down and backwards in comparison to our world, the Word of God intentionally challenges every idea we hold concerning what life looks like for those who are blessed.

Luke 1:5

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righteous in God's eyes, careful to
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Blessed and Favored

Zechariah and Elizabeth:

- **A barren couple.**
- **Ridiculed and shamed as a result of not having a child.**
- **Unanswered prayer for decades.**
- **He was muted for unbelief.**

Blessed and Favored

John the Baptist:

- His life was preplanned for him.
- He was not allowed to ever consume alcohol or wine.
- Grew up in the wilderness living as a monk, diet of locusts and honey.

Other Side of the Coin



Blessed and Favored

Zechariah and Elizabeth:

- **Declared righteous in God's eyes.**
- **They were chosen to raise John.**
- **Zechariah encountered an angel.**
- **They received a miracle that we are still talking about today.**

Blessed and Favored

John the Baptist:

- **Filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth.**
- **Chosen to be the long awaited messenger that preceded Christ.**
- **Given the spirit & power of Elijah.**

Blessed and Favored

John the Baptist:

- **He was destined to turn many Israelites back to God.**
- **Destined to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children.**

Blessed and Favored

John the Baptist:

- **Destined to cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.**

Principle #2

Since God's Kingdom is upside down and backwards in comparison to our world, the Word of God intentionally challenges every idea we hold concerning what life looks like for those who are blessed.

Principle #3

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, every one of our lives is a part of a much bigger story. They are a part of God's story.

Genealogy of Jesus

- **Unexpected**
- **Unworthy**
- **Unknown**
- **Unfaithful**

Because our lives are a part of the Mission of Christ, the events of our lives that we thought were a total waste, forever lost, unspeakable, unforgiveable, and unhealable; when they are put under the redeeming work of Christ,

they are transformed into something new. They go from being a wasteland of pain, suffering, loss, regret, and shame to becoming a new creation that is transformed by the Lord's power to become an area of supernatural blessing.

Principle #3

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, every one of our lives is a part of a much bigger story. They are a part of God's story.

Principle #4

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, faith in Jesus Christ is real when it demonstrates belief, repentance, growth, obedience, and praise.

Luke 1:57

When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son.

Luke 1:58

And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

Luke 1:59

When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father.

Luke 1:60

But Elizabeth said, “No! His name is John!”

Luke 1:61

“What?” they exclaimed. “There is no one in all your family by that name.”

Luke 1:62

So they used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him.

Luke 1:63

He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John."

Luke 1:64

Instantly Zechariah could speak again,
and he began praising God.

Principle #4

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, faith in Jesus Christ is real when it demonstrates belief, repentance, growth, obedience, and praise.

Principle #5

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, God's plan for your life will not come to pass without sacrifice, pain, suffering, and obedience.

Principle #6

In God's upside down and backwards kingdom, suffering for doing good must be embraced with gladness as it intimately connects us with our Lord and Master.

Principle #7

Since God's Kingdom is upside down and backwards in comparison to what we often believe, the Lord came to teach us who it is and what it is that God really values.

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