

BIBLE
STUDY
1/30/14

TIMELINE
LUKE 1 & 2

Zacharias' Annunciation			John's birth, circumcision, naming	Zacharias' song	John grows	John's ministry (ch. 3)					
Mary's Annunciation	Mary hurries	Mary's song			Jesus' birth	shepherds hurry	Jesus' naming & circumcision	Simeon's song	Anna's thanks	Jesus grows	Jesus' ministry (ch. 4-24)

Comparing the Births of Jesus and John

John

1:57 Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

1:58 Elizabeth's neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.

1:63 And Zacharias asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name s John." And they were all astonished.

1:66 All who heard [what happened when Zacharias' mouth was released from being mute] in their heart, were saying, "What then will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

Jesus

2:6-7 While they were [in Bethlehem], the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people. ...20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen.

2:18 And all who heard it were astonished at the things which were told them about this Child.

2:19 But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Repentance and Road-building

Luke 3

³ And John came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,
'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

⁵ 'EVERY RAVINE WILL BE FILLED,
AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL WILL BE BROUGHT LOW;
THE CROOKED WILL BECOME STRAIGHT,
AND THE ROUGH ROADS SMOOTH;

⁶ AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.'"

⁷ So he *began* saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance...

What is Luke/John saying that repentance looks like?

Think of the Roman roads

[**Roman roads** were vital to the maintenance and development of the Roman state, and were built from about 500 BC. Roman roads were of several kinds, ranging from small local roads to broad, long-distance highways built to connect cities, major towns and military bases. These major roads were often stone-paved and metaled, cambered for drainage, and were flanked by footpaths, and drainage ditches. They were laid along accurately surveyed courses, and some were cut through hills, or conducted over rivers and ravines on bridgework. Sections could be supported over marshy ground on rafted or piled foundations.

Luke 3

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
'Make ready the way of the LORD,
Make His paths straight.
Every ravine will be filled,
And every mountain
and hill will be brought low;
The crooked will become straight,
And the rough roads smooth;
And all flesh will see the salvation of God.'"

Acts 28

...the Jews came to Paul at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening...And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, saying, 'You will keep on **hearing**, but will not understand; You will keep on **seeing**, but will not perceive; For the heart of the people has become dull...'"

Therefore, [says Paul], let it be known to you that this **salvation of God** has been sent to the **Gentiles**; they will also **hear**."

**Look for forgiveness
and repentance in
the following:**

Luke 3:3

And John came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the release/forgiveness (aphesis) of sins.

Luke 3:8

John says, "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance..."

Jesus, quoting Isaiah said, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release/forgiveness (aphesis) to the captives..."

Luke 5: 17-32

¹⁷ ... *some* men we re carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. ¹⁹ But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down ...in front of Jesus. ²⁰ ...He said, "Friend, your sins are released/forgiven (aphesis) you." ²¹ The scribes and Pharisees...began saying, "Who can release/forgive/aphesis sins, but God alone?" ²² But Jesus,...said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been released/forgiven (aphesis) you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But, that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to release/forgive (aphesis) sins."

Luke 5:29-32

²⁹ And Levi gave a big reception for Jesus in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other *people* who were reclining *at the table* with them. ³⁰ The Pharisees and their scribes *began* grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus...said, "*It is* not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 24:44-47
44 Now [Jesus said to the disciples after His resurrection], "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for release/forgiveness (aphesjs) of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 2:37-38
³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the release/forgiveness (aphesis) of your sins..."

Acts 26:20
²⁰ but [Paul] *kept* declaring both to those of Damascus first, and *also* at Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds worthy of repentance.