

Jesus and History

Luke 1: 1-4

Introduction

Luke wrote his gospel to give us a reliable and precise record of the history of Jesus Christ's life. Luke explains his purpose for writing in the first four verses of chapter one. As it turns out, Luke was not only a medical doctor; he was also a good historian. In his writing, he pays a lot of attention to detail, including dates and events that happened throughout the life of Christ.

1. Luke also emphasizes the _____ of Jesus and his perfection as a human.
2. Luke was convinced that Jesus was the perfect man who gave the perfect sacrifice for sin, providing the perfect _____ for humankind.
3. Luke is the only _____ author in the New Testament.
4. "Theophilus" means "_____ of God" and was a fairly common name at that time.
5. Luke reveals that his purpose is to carefully document the life of Jesus in a way that would assure Theophilus of the historical _____ of Jesus' life and teachings.
6. Many people today see no need to connect history and _____.
7. Luke wants what Theophilus believes about spiritual things to be connected to _____ events that actually happened.

I. God's Blessings are Real.

8. Luke wanted his readers to know that God's blessings are _____ and that God imparts spiritual blessings that can be verified through historical events.
9. God acted through Moses to deliver Israel from _____.
10. When Israel began to worship the Canaanites' gods, God would get _____ with them because those gods didn't actually do anything in history.
11. According to the Bible, spiritual _____ come from what God did in history through Jesus.
12. _____ in Christ is only as good as what Jesus actually did in history.
13. Unless Jesus was truly resurrected in history, God's forgiveness for our sins is not available, and our faith is _____.
14. Faith doesn't _____ spiritual blessings; it can only acknowledge the spiritual blessing that God gives and has granted through historical events.
15. Luke wants us to know that God's blessings are real and that they have been historically _____.

II. Historical events can be verified.

16. Historical accuracy provides a _____ basis for belief in Christianity's spiritual truth claims.
17. Biblical faith is not choosing to believe in spite of the evidence; that's called _____.

18. We choose to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior because of the overwhelming _____.
19. And the main kind of evidence is _____.
20. Luke makes his claims about Jesus with references to specific people, places, times, and events that can be _____ from historical research.
21. The Bible records historical predictions of key people and events, with sufficient detail and time between the prophecy and its fulfillment that can be _____.
22. If the Bible can predict the future with this kind of accuracy, the evidence of its divine authorship provides an adequate basis for us to _____ what it says about God, Jesus Christ, and salvation.
23. All the historical _____ concerning the life of Jesus are verifiable.

III. Honest Examination Produces Belief.

24. A historical examination of Christianity also exposes the _____ versions of Christianity.
25. Jesus predicted that false claims about him would abound between his first and _____ comings.
26. Many of these questionable works were composed much later and are obviously _____ when you examine their "historical" material.
27. The New Testament gospels state that Jesus did not perform miracles until the wedding at _____.
28. Luke presents Jesus as the _____.

29. Jesus describes his mission as coming to “seek and save that which is _____”.

Conclusion

30. Jesus didn't come as a spiritual guru to guide you into the self-realization of your own _____.

31. Jesus didn't come to be your moral _____ so you can try a little harder to be good.

32. Jesus came to rescue you and save you from your _____.

Someone wrote, “The ground is level at the foot of the cross.” Even if you are rich or respectable, you still need to be saved by Jesus. Even if you are sinful, Jesus still loves you and wants to save you.

God's offer of salvation is real! His promises are grounded in truth. Faith in Christ is not a leap in the dark; it is based on accurate, reliable, and verifiable historical evidence. Simply put, Faith in Christ makes sense.

ANSWERS

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|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Humanity | 14. Create | 27. Cana |
| 2. Salvation | 15. Documented | 28. Savior |
| 3. Gentile | 16. Rational | 29. Lost |
| 4. Lover | 17. Gullibility | 30. Divinity |
| 5. Accuracy | 18. Evidence | 31. Example |
| 6. Spirituality | 19. Historical | 32. sins |
| 7. Historical | 20. Verified | |
| 8. Real | 21. Tested | |
| 9. Egypt | 22. Trust | |
| 10. Angry | 23. Details | |
| 11. Blessings | 24. Counterfeit | |
| 12. Faith | 25. Second | |
| 13. Useless | 26. Legendary | |