

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

Luke

PART 1

WHO IS THIS MAN
WHO FORGIVES SINS?
(CHAPTERS 1–16)

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LUKE PART 1
WHO IS THIS MAN WHO FORGIVES SINS?
(CHAPTERS 1–16)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Greek Word Study Tools

Commentaries on Luke

(See commentary list below.)

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

LONGMAN III, TREMPER; GARLAND, DAVID E., eds.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 10, Luke–Acts, Revised Edition

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., eds.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

STEIN, ROBERT H.

The New American Commentary, Vol. 24, Luke

Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 1992

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Luke 1
“Israel in the Time of Christ” map
“The Roman Period”
Cross-references

GOD’S SILENCE IS BROKEN; PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED. IT’S THE FULLNESS OF TIME.

There had not been a word from the Lord for about 400 years. Was this the famine of silence prophesied by the Lord through Amos?

**“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD,
“When I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,
But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.”
(Amos 8:11)**

DAY ONE

Oh what an adventure in God’s Word awaits us! We are so excited about this study of Luke. What you are going to learn, to discover for yourself . . . what you are going to experience as God Himself teaches you is only going to increase your knowledge of your Lord! And with that will come a new depth of awe of what it means to understand and live with a kingdom perspective on life.

Your assignment for today is one—read Luke chapter 1 prayerfully, thoughtfully, paragraph by paragraph. The text of Luke is in the Appendix under the title: Observation Worksheets.

1. Paragraph divisions are indicated by bold verse numbers.
2. As you read, use a pencil to record in the margin the theme—subject—covered in each paragraph.
3. If a paragraph focuses on a particular individual or individuals, write that down also.

DAY
TWO

1. It is good to get in the habit of prayer—of committing your study to the Lord. As you pray and ask for understanding of the text, make sure you ask God to cleanse you “by the washing of water with the word,” as Ephesians 5:26 says, for this is the way He sets you apart so that you become more and more like Him. Transformed! Conformed to His image!
2. Yesterday you got an overview of the content of Luke 1. Today we want to observe the text more closely. Let’s see what God wants you to know about the people He mentions in this chapter, and the when and where of their lives.
 - a. Mark each of the following, including pronouns, in a distinctive color or combination of colors so that you can easily distinguish them.
 - 1) Zacharias
 - 2) Zacharias’s son John
 - 3) Elizabeth
 - 4) Mary
 - 5) Jesus
 - b. As you observe people, mark every reference to the *whens* and *wheres*. Some mark time references with a green circle and a squiggly line under the rest of the time phrase. We suggest that you double underline in green anything that answers *where*.
3. There’s a chart, “Main Characters of Luke 1,” at the end of the lesson. List on it the key information the text gives you about each of these people. If you are new to Precept, this may seem like busy work; however, it’s not. This will help you learn to differentiate truth from man’s imagination. By the way, we’ve included a second page in case you need it.

Just stop and think of what you have seen for yourself from God’s Word. Have you learned things that you didn’t know before? Picked up details that you missed when you simply read the text? Careful, diligent observation is the foundation for accurate interpretation so observe, observe, observe!

DAY
THREE
AND
DAY
FOUR

Now that you’ve read Luke 1 twice, you might have noticed that the author doesn’t give his name in this first chapter. In fact, like the other Gospel writers, he doesn’t give his name anywhere in the book. However, as you do commentary work later, you’ll see that a variety of factors point to Luke as the author.

- d. *prayer**, *petition*
 - e. *Holy Spirit**
 - f. *bondslave* (This is a slave.)
 - g. *mercy* (This will not be used again until Luke 10.)
 - h. *Israel**
 - i. *salvation*
 - j. *sin**
4. Now, what did you learn from marking these words? Look at each place you marked to examine what you learn. You need not write it down unless it would be helpful to you. If you do not know the meaning of a word such as *righteousness* or *mercy* and cannot discern what it means from the context, then look up the word in a dictionary.
5. At this point in your study, do you feel that you have a better understanding of the purpose of Luke and its first chapter? You should, for you have done great work; yet there is more to glean from this chapter. For example, when did the events happen? What is the context of these events? Understanding context is critical to accurately interpreting a passage. Context is the setting of something, the environment in which something happens or is said. Contexts include historical and cultural elements.

So what is the historical context of Luke 1? Are we given any clues as to when this occurs?

- a. Look at the references to time you marked. What do you learn about the *when* of these events? When they begin?

- d. What did you learn about family and community in Luke 1?
- e. Geographically, where are these events happening? There's a map in the Appendix titled "Israel in the Time of Christ."
- 1) Where is the temple?
 - 2) Where is Nazareth?
 - 3) Where is the hill country of Judea?
7. There are two "declarations" in this chapter. The first is Mary's declaration in verses 46-55 and is often referred to as the "Magnificat," which is Latin for "magnifies."
- a. Read these verses and then write who and what these words focus on.
 - b. Mark the references to this person. When you finish, think about what you have learned from Mary about this person. As you do, think about this woman, who she is, what she's saying.
 - 1) What are your thoughts?
 - 2) Is there any relationship between Mary's proclamation and what has happened? If so, what?

- 3) What do Mary's words tell you about the significance of the child who will be born to her?
8. In the Appendix of your workbook you'll find a chart taken from the *NISB* (*The New Inductive Study Bible*) that covers the Roman period as it relates to the nation of Israel. Look at it carefully. You will see a number of "Herods."
- Which is the Herod of Luke 1?
 - If you have access to a Bible dictionary, see what you can learn about this Herod. It will help you understand the setting of Luke 1.
9. Finally, feel free to see what your commentaries say about Luke 1:1-56 but don't go any further, as you have yet to do more observations on Zacharias's words. We will do that tomorrow.

DAY
FIVE

- Why don't you begin today by reading Luke 1:57-80? Then pray, asking God to show you the rich truths of Zacharias's words and where you fit into them.
- When Zacharias speaks, according to the text what is he doing?
- Mark every reference to the Lord God in verses 67-79 as you marked Him in verses 46-55. When you finish, think about what you learn about God from these verses. You might want to jot down the main points in the space provided.

2) Genesis 15:1-6, 18

3) Galatians 3:16

4) Galatians 3:6-9

6. Now let's look at David. What do you learn from the following verses about David and what Zacharias is saying?
- a. According to Luke 1:68-69, what has God done and how?

b. 2 Samuel 7:8, 12-13, 16

c. Psalm 89:3-4

d. Psalm 132:10-12

e. Matthew 1:1

7. Now let's look at what Luke 1 tells us about John's relationship to Jesus along with the following cross-references. Record what you learn from the scriptures.

a. Compare Luke 1:16-17, 76 with Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6.

b. According to Luke 1:77, what else will John do and with respect to who?

c. Compare Luke 1:79 with Isaiah 9:2, 6-7.

8. Good work. We commend you for honoring God's Word by diligently studying it that you might handle it accurately. You have His promise in 2 Timothy 2:15. Feel free to consult your commentaries.
9. Finally, what has been special to you this first week? What impact will it have on your life? Write it out and then thank God for what He, by His Spirit, has taught you.

MAIN CHARACTERS OF LUKE 1

Zacharias	
Elizabeth	
Zacharias's son John	
Mary	
Jesus	

Luke Part 1

Lesson 1, Main Characters of Luke 1

MAIN CHARACTERS OF LUKE 1

Zacharias	
Elizabeth	
Zacharias's son John	
Mary	
Jesus	

LUKE 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- INASMUCH as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,
- 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,
 - 3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;
 - 4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.
 - 5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.
 - 6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.
 - 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.
 - 8 Now it happened *that* while he was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division,
 - 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.
 - 10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.
 - 11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.
 - 12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him.
 - 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.

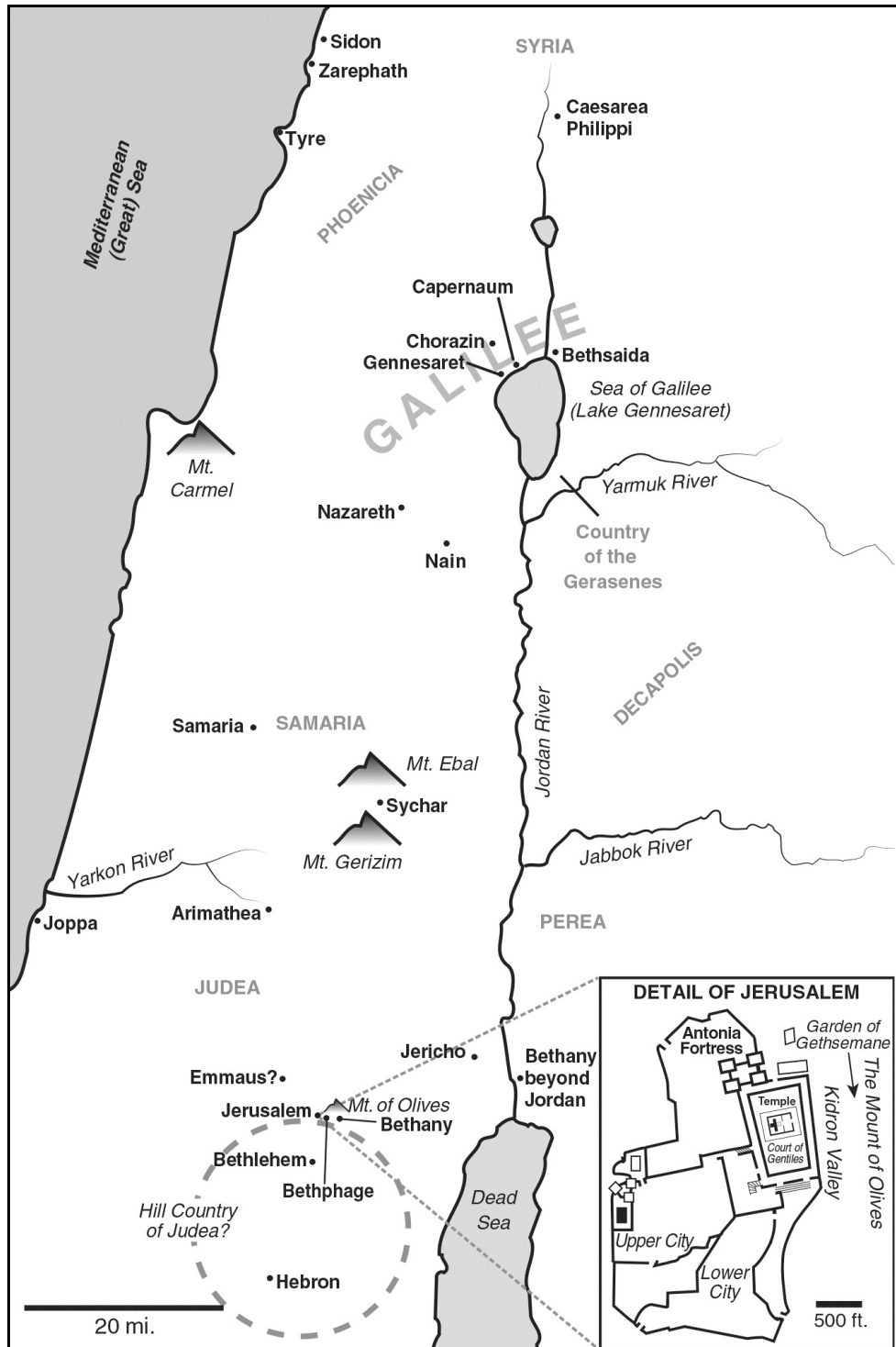
- 14 “You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.
- 15 “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb.
- 16 “And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.
- 17 “It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
- 18 Zacharias said to the angel, “How will I know this *for certain*? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.”
- 19 The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.
- 20 “And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”
- 21 The people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple.
- 22 But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and remained mute.
- 23 When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.
- 24 After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,
- 25 “This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked *with favor* upon *me*, to take away my disgrace among men.”
- 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,
- 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.
- 28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you.”

- 29 But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.
- 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.
- 31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.
- 32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;
- 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”
- 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”
- 35 The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.
- 36 “And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.
- 37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- 38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.
- 39** Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah,
- 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.
- 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!
- 43 “And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?
- 44 “For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.
- 45 “And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”

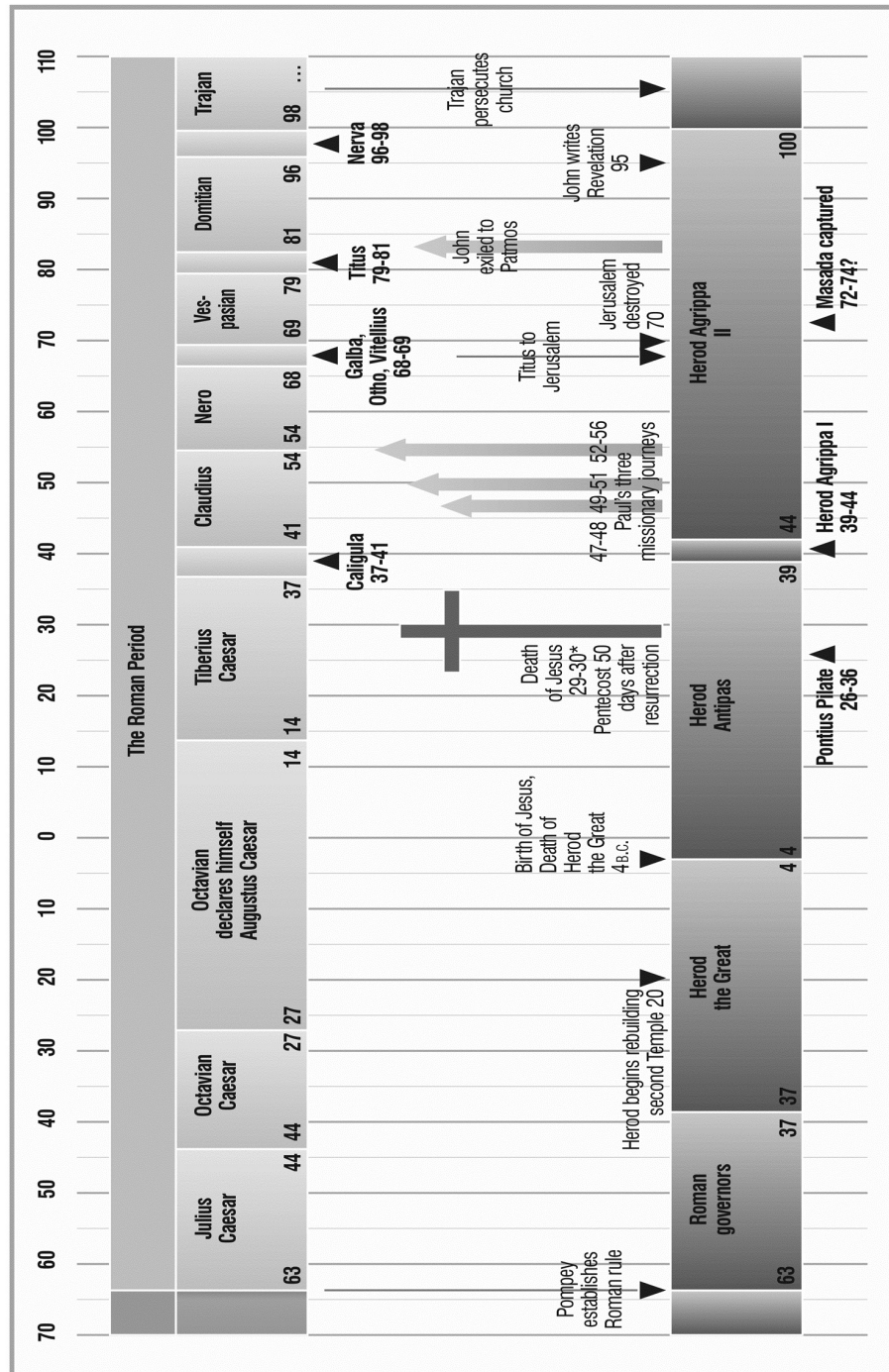
- 46 And Mary said:
 “My soul exalts the Lord,
 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
 48 “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave;
 For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.
 49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me;
 And holy is His name.
 50 “AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION
 TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.
 51 “He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
 He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.
 52 “He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,
 And has exalted those who were humble.
 53 “HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;
 And sent away the rich empty-handed.
 54 “He has given help to Israel His servant,
 In remembrance of His mercy,
 55 As He spoke to our fathers,
 To Abraham and his descendants forever.”
 56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her
 home.
 57 Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a
 son.
 58 Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great
 mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.
 59 And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child,
 and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father.
 60 But his mother answered and said, “No indeed; but he shall be called John.”
 61 And they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by
 that name.”
 62 And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called.

- 63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, “His name is John.” And they were all astonished.
- 64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he *began* to speak in praise of God.
- 65 Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.
- 66 All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child *turn out to be*?” For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.
- 67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:
- 68 “Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,
69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of David His servant—
70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—
71 Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES,
And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US;
72 To show mercy toward our fathers,
And to remember His holy covenant,
73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,
74 To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.
76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS;
77 To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness of their sins,
78 Because of the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,
79 TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”
- 80 And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Israel in the Time of Christ



THE ROMAN PERIOD



*Some scholars say A.D. 33

