

# Ben Washington Baptist Church

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## Luke 2

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

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# Introduction

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A time capsule is usually a collection gathered by a city or graduating class or other group to serve as a reminder of the year and to be opened later.

- Luke provides a time capsule of the life and times of Jesus.
- He writes to Theophilus, most likely a high Roman official and new believer
- He is the only Gentile writer of the Bible; probably written between 58 and 65 AD.
- Luke Chapter 1 deals primarily with the birth of John, Jesus's cousin and forerunner

# It's About Time



- Time

- God's hand in history



- Timing

- Human affairs
- Divine direction



- Timeliness

- Right place at the right time

# Time

## God's Hand in History

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- Luke 2:1-7
  - Jesus's birth is intertwined with the Roman census
  - Before Christ (BC) marks the time before His birth
  - Anno Domini (AD) means "in the year of our Lord"
  - Common Era (CE) same as AD
- 700 years before Jesus is born
  - A Roman census occurs every 5 years unless declared otherwise. Underpinned by tax collection.
  - Joseph and Mary report to Bethlehem
    - Micah 5:2
  - Jesus is born in Bethlehem



# Timing

Human Affairs/Divine Direction

Luke 2:8-20

- The angel's announcement (8-14)
- The Shepherds account (15-18, 20)
- Mary's admiration (19)

# Timing

## Human Affairs/Divine Direction (cont)

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- A Devoted Family (21-24)
  - They are devout with keeping the law - Leviticus 12:1-8
    - Covenant with Abraham - Gen. 17:9-14
  - They take Jesus to the temple
  - They had little financial means but made the best with God's provisions
- Two witnesses
  - Simeon
    - God fearing man waiting of the promised Messiah
    - Revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before death
    - He holds Jesus, blesses the parents, and announces the pain to be felt
  - Anna
    - 91-year-old woman serving God at the temple
    - She walked by and saw Jesus prophesied afterwards

# Timeliness

## Right Place at the Right Time

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The family attends the annual Feast of Passover - Leviticus 23:1-44 (Observation mandatory)

- Sabbath (six-day work week)
- Passover (Exodus 12)
- Feast of First Fruits (beginning of harvest)
- Feast of Weeks (Pentecost; end of the harvest)
- Feast of Trumpets (ends the harvest and festival year)
- Day of Atonement (High priest offers sin offering in the temple)
- Feast of Booths (recalls the journey in taking the promised land)

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jewish-festivals.html>

# Timeliness

## Right Place at the Right Time (cont)

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- Verses 41-50
  - The astonishment of the teachers (Rabbis)
  - The anguish of Joseph and Mary
  - The calmness of Jesus
- Verses 51-52
  - Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph
  - About 18 years have passed since the Passover incident; Luke Chapter 3 introduces Jesus's baptism and the start of His ministry on Earth.
  - Jesus is fully grown and has the respect of God and men.



# Questions or Comments

