

Good News That Stays New and Good!

Luke 1:1-2:40



Background: What do you think of when you think of “*good news*”? Have you ever wished for the good news of a new start in life, where you could push a reset button and do a clean install? At critical times in Israel’s history, when their world grew oppressive and morally dark, God intervened to subvert the existing order and granted his people a new beginning, a fresh start. But sadly, it never lasted. Luke’s magnificent opening to his gospel (120 verses) gives us a clue that this **new beginning** will set the stage for the grand climax to Israel’s history and with it, the salvation of the whole world. This will be history’s last new beginning. It is good news that remains forever **new** and **good**!

Sermon Text: Luke 1:1-2:40 (ESV)

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?
- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

2. Sermon questions

- Luke uniquely has four songs (canticles) in his birth narrative: the Magnificat (1:46-55), the Benedictus (1:68-79), the Gloria in Excelsis (2:14) and the Nunc Demittis (2:29-32). Which one is your favorite? Why? Does it correlate with your favorite character from Luke’s narrative? Why or why not?
- “God’s Word will never fail.” Respond to this statement from Brian, which draws from Isaiah 55:11. How has this truth worked itself out in your life?
- Are you immersing yourself in scripture? Why or why not?
- Luke’s birth narrative is known for the angels. And, when the angels appear, they begin their sayings with “fear not.” For this reason, the Christmas season can be known as the season of “fear not.” Can you identify your fears right now? If so, what would it mean for you to “fear not” this Christmas season?