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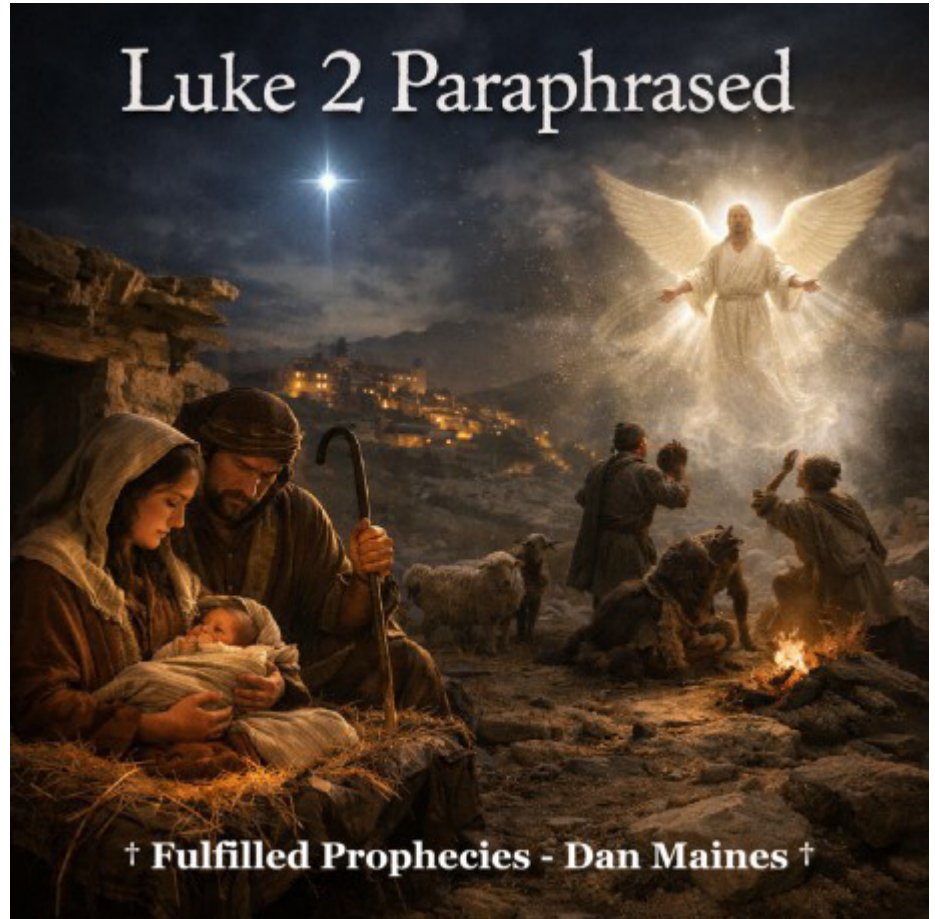
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Luke 2 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Luke 2 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This chapter shows the birth of Jesus in the days of Caesar Augustus, bringing prophecy into fulfillment

† It reveals how God worked through earthly rulers to bring about His plan in that generation

† It shows the humble entrance of Christ, not as an earthly king, but as the Savior of His people

Luke 2:1

A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the inhabited

land should be registered

† God used a pagan ruler to move events exactly where they needed to happen

† This shows divine control over nations and governments

† Even Rome served God's purpose without knowing it

Luke 2:2

This was the first registration while Quirinius was governing Syria

† This anchors the event in real history

† The gospel is tied to actual time and rulers

† This isn't symbolic, it's a real fulfilled moment

Luke 2:3

Everyone was going to be registered, each to his own city

† This caused Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem

† God used this to fulfill prophecy about the Messiah's birthplace

† What seemed like inconvenience was divine direction

Luke 2:4

Joseph also went up from Galilee, from Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family of David

† This fulfills the promise that Messiah would come from David's line

† Bethlehem becomes the stage for fulfillment

† God's covenant with David is being carried forward

Luke 2:5

He went to register with Mary, who was engaged to him, and she was with child

† Mary carries the promised child at the exact appointed time

† God's timing is precise, not random

† This shows preparation leading into fulfillment

Luke 2:6

While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth

† Everything aligns perfectly with prophecy

† There is no delay in God's plan

† Fulfillment happens right on time

Luke 2:7

She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn

† The King enters in humility, not in power

† This reveals the nature of His kingdom

† Rejection is present even at His birth

Luke 2:8

In the same region there were shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night

† Shepherds represent the lowly and overlooked

† God reveals His Son first to them

† The message begins with the humble

Luke 2:9

An angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified

† God's glory breaks into ordinary life

† Fear comes when heaven reveals itself

† This marks the significance of the moment

Luke 2:10

The angel said to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people

† The message is good news, not judgment yet

† It is for all people, not just Israel

† Joy replaces fear through revelation

Luke 2:11

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord

† This identifies Jesus clearly as Savior and Messiah

† The promise has now arrived

† Fulfillment is present, not future

Luke 2:12

This will be a sign for you, you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger

† The sign is humble, not impressive

† God points to simplicity as confirmation

† This removes worldly expectations

Luke 2:13

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army praising God

† Heaven celebrates what earth doesn't yet understand

† This shows the importance of the event

† The unseen realm confirms the truth

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased

† Peace is being established through Christ

† God's favor is being revealed

† This speaks of covenant fulfillment

Luke 2:15

When the angels had gone away, the shepherds began saying to one another, Let us go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened

† They respond immediately to the message

† Faith moves into action

† They seek confirmation

Luke 2:16

They came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger

† The sign proves true exactly as spoken

† God's word never fails

† Witnesses confirm the event

Luke 2:17

When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child

† They become messengers of what they witnessed

† The gospel begins spreading immediately

† Testimony follows revelation

Luke 2:18

All who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds

† The message causes amazement

† People are confronted with truth

† Wonder precedes understanding

Luke 2:19

Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart

† She reflects deeply on what is happening

† This shows awareness of something greater unfolding

† God's work is recognized inwardly

Luke 2:20

The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them

† Fulfillment produces worship

† Their experience matches the message

† God's truth leads to praise

Luke 2:21

When eight days had passed, He was circumcised, and His

name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived

† Jesus is placed under the Law

† His name confirms His identity and mission

† Everything follows God's instruction

Luke 2:22

When the days for their purification were completed according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

† They obey the Law fully

† Jesus enters into the covenant system

† This shows His role within Israel

Luke 2:23

As it is written in the Law of the Lord, Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord

† This fulfills the Law exactly

† Jesus is set apart from birth

† He is consecrated to God's purpose

Luke 2:24

They offered a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons

† This shows their humility and poverty

† The Savior comes through lowly means

† God's plan doesn't rely on wealth

Luke 2:25

There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him

† Simeon represents faithful expectation

† He is waiting for fulfillment in his lifetime

† The Spirit confirms his role

Luke 2:26

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ

† This places fulfillment within that generation

† The promise is personal and immediate

† God's word to him is certain

Luke 2:27

He came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law

† The Spirit leads him to the exact moment

† Divine timing brings everything together

† This isn't coincidence, it's fulfillment

Luke 2:28

Then he took Him into his arms and blessed God

† He recognizes the Messiah instantly

† Fulfillment is now in his hands

† This is the climax of waiting

Luke 2:29

Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond servant to depart in peace, according to Your word

† He knows his purpose is complete

† Fulfillment brings peace

† The promise has been kept

Luke 2:30

For my eyes have seen Your salvation

† Salvation is seen, not distant

† It is present in Christ

† This confirms fulfillment has begun

Luke 2:31

Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples

† This was not hidden, but prepared openly

† God's plan includes all nations

† Fulfillment is public

Luke 2:32

A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel

† The mission includes Gentiles from the start

† Israel's purpose is being fulfilled

† Light is now revealed

Luke 2:33

His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him

† The magnitude of His role continues to unfold

† Even they are still processing it

† The testimony keeps growing

Luke 2:34

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed

† Jesus will divide Israel

† He will expose hearts

† Opposition is part of His mission

Luke 2:35

A sword will pierce even your own soul, to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed

† This points to suffering and rejection

† Truth reveals what is inside people

† Judgment comes through exposure

Luke 2:36

There was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher

† Another witness confirms the moment

† She represents faithful endurance

† God uses multiple testimonies

Luke 2:37

She was advanced in years and never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers

† Her life was devoted to waiting on God

† Persistence leads to seeing fulfillment

† Faithfulness is rewarded

Luke 2:38

At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem

† She recognizes fulfillment immediately

† She shares it with others waiting

† The message spreads among the faithful

Luke 2:39

When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth

† Everything was done according to the Law

† Jesus fulfills all requirements

† Preparation continues

Luke 2:40

The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him

† Jesus develops as a man

† Wisdom grows over time

† God's favor is evident

Luke 2:41

His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover

† They were faithful to the covenant practices

† Jesus was raised within the Law

† This sets the stage for His later ministry

Luke 2:42

When He became twelve, they went up according to the custom of the Feast

† This marks a transition toward maturity

† Jesus begins stepping into His purpose

† Timing is progressing

Luke 2:43

After the days were completed, they were returning, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, and His parents were unaware of it

† This shows independence in His mission

† He is focused on something greater

† His purpose begins to take priority

Luke 2:44

They assumed He was in the group and went a day's journey

† They didn't yet fully understand His role

† Assumptions lead to concern

† This sets up discovery

Luke 2:45

When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him

† They begin searching urgently

† Concern grows

† This leads them back to the temple

Luke 2:46

After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions

† Jesus is engaged with truth and teaching

† He is already operating in wisdom

† This reveals His identity early

Luke 2:47

All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers

† His wisdom surpasses expectation

† Even teachers are astonished

† This confirms who He is

Luke 2:48

When they saw Him, they were astonished, and His mother said, Son, why have You treated us this way

† They don't fully understand His actions

† There is tension between earthly and divine roles

† His mission creates confusion

Luke 2:49

He said to them, Why is it that you were looking for Me, did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house

† He identifies God as His Father

† His purpose is clear even now

† This shows divine awareness

Luke 2:50

They did not understand the statement which He had made to them

† Full understanding comes later

† Revelation unfolds over time

† Not everything is grasped immediately

Luke 2:51

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them, and His mother treasured all these things in her heart

† He submits within the family structure

† Growth continues in humility

† Mary continues to reflect deeply

Luke 2:52

Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men

† His development continues steadily

† He grows in both spiritual and social ways

† This prepares Him for what is coming

Historical References

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, confirms Roman census practices and governance structure

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, affirms the historical timing of Christ's birth

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies, testifies to the reality of Christ coming in the flesh

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata, speaks of Christ as the light to the nations

How it applies to us today

† God is still in control of world events, just as He used Rome to fulfill His plan

† Fulfillment reminds us that God's promises are not delayed, they are precise

† Jesus came humbly, so we should walk humbly

† We should respond like the shepherds, with faith and action

† We should treasure God's work in our hearts like Mary

† We should grow in wisdom and maturity just as Christ did

Q & A Appendix

Q Why was Jesus born during a Roman census

A God used earthly authority to fulfill prophecy about Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Q Who did the angels appear to first

A Shepherds, showing the message was for the humble (Luke 2:8-11)

Q What did Simeon recognize

A He saw the Messiah and declared salvation had come (Luke 2:30-32)

Q Why is Jesus called a light to the Gentiles

A Because salvation was always intended for all nations (Isaiah 49:6)

Q What does Jesus at age twelve show us

A That He already understood His identity and mission (Luke 2:49)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Luke 2

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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