

Luke 1:1-4

Our society says that truth is subjective and that it is up to us to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. If you believe in the story of Jesus that is fine for you. But, I don't believe the Bible so it is not right for me.

If we follow this train of thought, it leads nowhere. It would mean that any statement sincerely made and believed is true.

1. I sincerely believe the earth is flat, the moon is made of cheese, and that I can jump the grand canyon in my new shoes
2. I don't believe in gravity or that breathing is necessary
3. We all know that none of those beliefs are true, no matter how sincerely I believe or deny any one of them.

The story of Jesus...is it true? Our study of Luke begins with a clear, "yes."

READ/PRAY

I. Accounts v1

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,

- Many had undertaken to compile an account of the story of Jesus.

1. This was a popular subject.
2. Many wrote down their experiences and shared them.

- This was a very public story.

1. These were things accomplished among us...verified by us in the plural.
2. The things we claim as Christians were not done in secret.

- a. Luke gives specific historical dates and figures as he tells us the story of Jesus.

- b. Luke 1:5, Luke 2:1-2, Luke 3:1-2

- These things did not just happen among us. They were accomplished among us.

1. Why did Luke choose to say that these things were accomplished among us instead of these things happened among us?

2. Luke is referring to the promises and prophecies of the old testament.

- a. These are not just things that happened.

- b. These are foreseen and fore-promised events that have now come to pass.

- c. They have been accomplished

3. The Bible is the only book of religion on planet earth that contains specific predictive prophecy and the actual fulfillment thereof.

Consider all of the Old Testament prophecies related to Jesus.

1. Place of birth, Time of birth, Manner of birth and circumstances surrounding it.
2. Betrayal for 30 silver coins, Manner of death, and His Burial in a rich man's tomb
3. Some sources say more than 400 OT prophecies point to Christ and His life.

Peter Stoner in his book, Science Speaks wrote, “*We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled 8 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power: that is 1 in 100 quadrillion (a 1 followed by 17 zeros). In order to help us comprehend this staggering possibility, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that we take 10 to the 17th power of silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state 2 feet deep. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing just 8 prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom.”*

1. What are the chances that one man would fulfill all 48 prophecies?
2. What about 400? Yet Jesus fulfilled them all.

The entire gospel is about God's accomplishing his plan and humans seeing him do it.

1. Luke 24:44-48
2. Many people were aware of the very public promises and prophesies fulfilled by and in Jesus.

3. 2 Peter 1:16-21 *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”-- 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

II. Eyewitnesses v2

2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word

We also learn that there were eyewitnesses who had been with Jesus since the beginning.

1. They had been with Jesus since the beginning of His ministry.
2. They saw, heard, and experienced Him and His work and handed it down to others
 - a. What motive would they have to stand by their story?
 - b. Not money, not material possessions, promotions, or popularity.
 - c. No, the only thing their testimonies provided them was suffering and death.
 - d. **The only motive they had to stand by their story was, it is true!**

3. 1 John 1:1-3 *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life-- 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

III. Investigation v3

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;

It seemed fitting to me...Luke...having done my own careful investigation from the beginning, to write it out.

1. Who was this Luke?
 - a. Luke was a companion of Paul's, a physician, and a Gentile.
 - b. Colossians 4:14 *Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings*
2. He was not just an average joe. As a physician, He was a well educated, and well trained professional.

Luke, in a major undertaking, writes a carefully investigated 2 volume series: His gospel and Acts. In fact, when you consider the number of chapters and verses Luke compiled, he wrote most of the NT!

1. The gospel of Luke is a kind of investigative journalism. He was not an eyewitness, but he apparently interviewed many many eyewitnesses as he investigated and compared the evidence.
2. His investigative account has been affirmed throughout history.
 - a. Archaeology and history both confirm the accuracy of Luke's account.
 - b. Sir William Ramsay, regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists ever to have lived, concluded after 30 years of study the following: "*Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy....this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.*" "*Luke's history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness.*"

As we consider what is and isn't true we can choose to accept a reliable account from men of God who have been proven time and time again....or the account of ungodly men who our culture considers "intelligent."

1. One of those men, considered so intelligent by our society, is Richard Dawkins.
 - a. The problem is Mr. Dawkins seems to operate more like the subjective opinionated culture who declares truth to be whatever I believe it to be
 - b. Rather than the truth seeking scientist he testifies to be.
2. He wrote a book called *Outgrowing God: A Beginner's Guide*.¹
 - a. Its aim is to save children and young people from belief in the sky fairy.
 - b. Plugging it he said, "Facts are wonderful and such a treat!"
3. George Heath-Whyte, a researcher at Cambridge pointed out some major flaws in Dawkins' book....specifically in a chapter called "Goodbye God," Heath Whyte points out that Dawkins' research is littered with errors.²
 - a. A quick google search suggests that Dawkins' source for a lot of his information came not from reputable sources, but a website called

History Wiz...a website that is copyrighted 1998-2008 with multiple broken links and a design from the year 2000

- b. Instead of using reputable sources, Dawkins utilized a source with multiple verifiable efforts because it supported his theses...we have outgrown God.
4. As we consider what is and isn't true we can choose to accept a reliable account from men of God who have been proven time and time again....or the account of men who our culture considers "genius" and who sometimes write bestselling books using unreliable out of date websites as their source.

Luke has investigated the accounts and interviewed the eyewitnesses to compile a lengthy report declaring that The Story of Jesus Christ is absolutely true...exact truth v4.

IV. Exact Truth v4

4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

Luke took the many accounts about the promises and fulfilled prophecies related to Jesus, the eyewitness accounts handed down, and his own careful investigation SO THAT we may know the EXACT TRUTH!

1. The absolute truth.

¹ <https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2019/09/if-richard-dawkins-loves-facts-so-much-why-cant-he-get-them-right/>

²<https://twitter.com/gheathwhyte/status/1175081067943997440?lang=en>

2. The story of Jesus is not just a story. It is true!

Conclusion:

We are going to walk our way through this true story, the story of Jesus from the beginning, and as we do,

I hope that....

1. We get to know Him better
2. We understand His expectations more clearly
3. And we learn to love Him amore and follow Him more closely.