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Structural Analysis of Luke via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: Purpose and Prophecy 1:1-80
The introduction to Luke includes specific features not included in the other Gospels, such as the names of angels, a song of Mary, background for Zacharias in the temple and more. Luke states his purpose is to give an accurate account so that Theophilus may know the certainty of the things he has been taught. Luke has prepared an organized, historical account that consists of key details from a multitude of eye witness accounts. This Gospel is unique in that it contains information from a plurality of sources instead of just a single perspective.
 - A. The angel Gabriel appears to Zacharias explaining he will have a son and name him John, and that this son will come before Him, preparing the people for the Lord through repentance 1:1-25
The appearance of an angel to deliver a message is significant as this was on way in which God communicated with past prophets.
 - B. The angel Gabriel appears to Mary to explain that she will give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. 1:26-38
As read in the text, Mary had to pause to consider what kind of greeting this was. The angel tells her not to fear, so we know that she was afraid. Encounters with angels was not the norm and represented something very special.
- II. BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD: 2:1-52
This section covers Christ's birth through some of His childhood. Christ's birth which had been prophesied is now fulfilled. Angels again appear, this time to shepherds to share the good news. As Jesus is taken to the temple per custom (circumcision and presentation to God), two more witnesses confess that He is special. Simeon had been told by Go that he would not die until he saw this promise fulfilled. Anna, a faithful servant of God, also shared that Jesus was special. It's interesting to note in both the introduction and the birth sections that angels appear to men and then to women. In the culture of the time, the witness of a woman was not something that had merit in society. Men had to be witnesses in matters of importance. This seems to symbolize that the good new was meant for all, and this is seen later in Jesus' ministry as He had a multitude of women followers as well.
 - A. Jesus is born 2:1-7
 - B. An angel appears to shepherds announcing Christ's birth 2:8-20
 - C. Simeon proclaims Jesus as the Christ (having been told by God) 2:25-35
 - D. Anna, a prophetess confirms He is the redeemer 2:36-38
- III. PREPARATION FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY: John the Baptist, Jesus baptized, genealogy, and temptation 3:1-4:13
John the Baptist prepares the Jewish people for Christ's coming. He preaches a message of repentance and anticipation for the coming One. The them in this section is that of preparation. John prepares for Christ's arrival, Jesus is prepared through baptism, and then Jesus is tempted by Satan and overcomes. All of this is in preparation for the start of Jesus' ministry.
 - A. John the Baptist preaches to the people, preparing the way for Jesus 3:1-20
 - B. John baptizes Jesus 3:21-22
 - C. Jesus is tempted by Satan 4:1-13
- IV. PUBLIC MINISTRY 4:14-21:38
After the preparation phase, Jesus beings teaching and, like the prophets of old, is rejected in His home town. A key theme this represents is man's rejection of and misunderstanding of things of a spiritual nature. They do not weight whether the message is right, or if the works proof what is being said. Instead, they think about where Jesus came from – wasn't

He after all just a kid from the town? Looking at the world through a worldly lens, they missed the spiritual aspect – that God is the one who is special – He uses the lowly at times. In this case, Jesus was not lowly, but the spiritual theme of power coming from God should have been perceived.

- A. Jesus begins ministering in Galilee 4:14-5:16
 - i. Jesus rejected in Nazareth
 - ii. Jesus teaches, heals and casts out demons
 - iii. Jesus call Simon, James and John
 - a. Miracle of the fish being caught
- B. Jesus begins expressing His authority 5:17-6:11

Rather than simply healing, Jesus also verbalizes the forgiveness of sins, a theme that shows His authority and hints at His deity. He continues this theme of authority by referring to Himself as Lord of the Sabbath. This is important because with the Jewish self-made restrictions, the Sabbath had become more of a burden of rules and punishment than a time of rest as intended. By establishing His authority, Jesus positions Himself as One being able to clarify and correct this perception.

 - i. Forgiveness of sins 5:17-26
 - ii. Lord of the Sabbath 6:1-11
- C. Jesus calls the Twelve 6:12-16

From among those following Him, Jesus picks out 12 who are to be special, apostles. These are the ones that He will focus His teaching on in those times of withdrawal. This also matches the 12 tribes of Israel and offers symbolism for each of the tribes being taught and chosen.
- D. Jesus teaches and heals multitudes 6:17-7:10

Jesus' teaching is often paired with healing, to justify His authority and message.
- E. Jesus raises a son from the dead 7:11-23

This is the first instance of Jesus raising from the dead – both showing His control and authority over death, and as a way of foreshadowing things to come, with His own death.
- F. Parables and Teaching
 - i. Forgives sins of woman 7:36-50
 - ii. Parables 8:4-8:21
- G. Miracle of Calming the Storm and Waves 8:22-25

This miracle shows that Christ also has authority over the natural world and matches the theme of His deity.
- H. Jesus raises a daughter from the dead 8:40-56

Having raised a boy from the dead, a son, Jesus now raises a girl, a daughter from death. This can be tied to a theme that Christ has come to save all.
- I. Jesus sends the 12 to preach 9:1-6

Having begun their training, Jesus now sends out the 12. This pairs with His theme that the message is to be shared, and will tie in with His great commission later on.
- J. Jesus transfigured before disciples 9:28-36

Jesus shows His presence to a few disciples, again showing His deity and authority by appearing with both Moses and Elijah, recognized biblical authorities.
- K. The cost of following explained and the 70 sent out 9:49-10:20

Jesus explains the difficulty His followers will experience, this is not just for the moment, but into the future and shares a theme of rejection of God's message by many people. This rejection is to be expected, along with the repercussions of bearing this message to the same. The path of following Jesus will not be an easy task, and He tells them this early on.

- L. Jesus teaches parables and heals 10:25-21:38
Continuing in His ministry, Jesus continues to teach a great many things and interweave in healing and miracles throughout. These them of proofs by works and then instruction is pervasive throughout His ministry. The people always sought a sign to validate a message, and Jesus provided plenty of signs to validate what He said.

- V. PREPARATION FOR SACRIFICE 22:1-46
 - A. Judas plots his betrayal 22:1-6
In order to fulfill prophecy and set the stage, Judas is overcome by Satan and begins to make plans to Jesus' betrayal.
 - B. Passover preparation 22:7-13
Jesus has His disciples make preparation for the coming Passover. This also acts as a theme for preparation for the coming sacrifice. Passover itself has been preparation for God's people for generations for this coming moment of Christ's sacrifice.
 - C. Preparation of the Disciples 22:14-46
Jesus begins to switch gears and work towards getting in some final messages to His disciples who will continue to minister in His absence. He seeks to correct and humble any remaining pride. He also offers solace in a way of remembrance (The Lord's Supper) for a time to come together and remember what they have been taught in the future.
 - i. The Lord's Supper 22:14-23
 - ii. Jesus corrects pride for greatness 22:24-30
 - iii. Jesus foretells of Peter's denial 22:31-34
Continuing in preparation, Jesus reveals that Peter will deny Him. This again matches the theme of preparation. Something that for any normal person could cast them off into a shameful spiral of defeat, having foreknowledge of this event, and having Jesus still love and instruct Peter, shows a way of comforting and a path for restoring Peter after the failure. In a way, it shows that this had to happen as part of the things to come.
 - iv. Teaches God is the Provider 22:35-38
Jesus again works in the theme of preparation by reminding them that God is the ultimate provider, that they need not concern themselves with the logistics of the mission, but simply be ready to serve – God will take care of the details and their physical needs.
 - v. Example of prayer in times of crisis 22:39-46
Jesus leads the disciples to a time of prayer during the coming crisis. Jesus prays three times, and each time prompts the disciples to do the same, even when He finds them sleeping. This acts again as a theme of relying on God, not themselves in times of trouble. Jesus sets the ultimate example with this action. In a believer's darkest time, they should come to God in prayer.

- VI. BETRAYAL AND TRIAL 22:47-23:25
In fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy as well as the words Jesus Himself has been prophesying since the beginning of His ministry, the Christ is being rejected and about to suffer. The world, both Jew and Gentile are ignoring the will of God, even with signs, and instead rejecting God and choosing self.
 - A. Jesus arrested 22:47-53
 - B. Peter denies Christ 22:54-62
 - C. Jesus tried by the Jews 22:63-71
This shows rejection by God's people, again showing the theme of rejection of God.

- D. Jesus tried by the Gentiles 23:1-25
This shows rejection by the Gentiles, and thus the whole world (both Jew and Gentile have rejected the message).
- VII. CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH 23:26-56
More than just being hung on a cross, Christ is ridiculed, mocked and shamed. Not only was He/God rejected, but man flaunted and pridefully rebelled against His message.
- A. Jesus crucified, mocked and shamed 23:26-43
- i. Dialogue with believing thief who stands up for Jesus
The importance of this dialogue is in keeping with the theme that Christ has come to save the world, no matter what state a person is in, it is never too late to accept and belief in Christ. Jesus says that this thief will be with Him in Paradise this day.
- B. Jesus dies on the cross 23:44-49
In fulfillment of prophecy and legal requirements, Jesus dies as an atoning sacrifice for all.
- C. Jesus buried 23:50-56
Jesus is buried in a prepared cave. His earlier references to the sign of Jonah begin here, and the cave acts as the belly of the fish and begins the three day countdown for the sign to be fulfilled.
- VIII. RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION 24:1-53
Christ rises from death, again matching the theme that He has power over death and sin. Moreover, He is risen after three days, fulfilling what He had told the unbelieving Pharisees and scribes – that the only sign they would receive would be the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah was released from the belly of the fish after three days, Christ was restored from death and the cave after three days.
- A. Victory over death – He is Risen 24:1-12
- B. Jesus appears to His disciples 24:13
Matching the theme of preparation Jesus appears to His disciples to offer encouragement and instruction – preparing them for future service. He wanted them to see His final victory.
- i. Road to Emmaus 24:13-35
 - ii. In the midst of the Disciples 24:36-49
 - iii. Encouraged to stay in Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit
This matches the them of preparation and maintaining a type of fellowship with His disciples. The same power that flows through Him, His same substance, will remain behind and help in the ministry of sharing the Good News.
 - iv. Jesus ascends into heaven 24:50-52
Jesus returns to be with God in heaven, ending this period of His earthly ministry. He will return, but for now, the presence of God has transitioned to the coming Holy Spirit.