the Gospel of Luke
Introduction

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

The birth of John the Baptist

foretold In the time of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. They were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty, he was serving as a priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of the incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying inside.
Then an angel of the LORD appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and a delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the LORD. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit ever before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the LORD, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the LORD."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in her years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not be able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe."
were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years, there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them were cleansed, only Naaman the Syrian.

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got-up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

**Jesus drives out an impure spirit.**

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice:

**Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!**

"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out." And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

**Jesus heals many**

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So Jesus bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving 16 them. But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to
The parable of Jesus is told about a man who was preparing a great banquet. He had invited many guests. At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited to come. But the guests began to make excuses. The first said, 'I must try out 5 new vineyards.' The second said, 'I must go and take care of my flock.' And so on. The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the master became angry and said, 'Go, send out the first guest. When one of them comes, he will eat at the table with his fellow guests.'