

Luke 1-2: Scenes and Subjects

	Location	Time	Character(s)	Subject
1:1-4	—	after other gospels	narrator (“N”), Theophilus	reason for writing gospel
1:5-23	Jerusalem Temple	days of Herod; evening	N, Zechariah, Elizabeth, multitude, Gabriel	annunciation of birth of John the Baptist
1:24-25	Judean hill country	“after these days”	N, Elizabeth, John the Baptist (in utero)	God’s treatment of Elizabeth
1:26-38	Nazareth in Galilee	Elizabeth’s sixth month	N, Mary, Gabriel	annunciation of birth of Jesus
1:39-56	Judean hill country	Elizabeth’s 6th-9th months	N, Mary, Elizabeth	relationship between John the Baptist and Jesus; <i>Magnificat</i>
1:57-80	Judean hill country	end of Elizabeth’s pregnancy	N, Elizabeth, Zechariah, neighbors, relatives, John the Baptist	birth and naming of John the Baptist; <i>Benedictus</i>
2:1-7	Bethlehem	census under Quirinius	narrator (“N”), Caesar, Joseph, Mary, child	birth of Jesus
2:8-20	Bethlehem countryside	same as above	N, shepherds, angel, heavenly. host, Mary, Joseph, child	annunciation to shepherds
2:21-35	Jerusalem Temple	40 days later	N, Joseph, Mary, infant, Simeon	purification/consecration of Jesus; Simeon’s <i>Nunc Dimmitis</i>
2:36-38	Jerusalem Temple	same as above	N, Anna	thanksgiving for birth of Jesus
2:39-40	route to Nazareth	shortly thereafter	N, parents, child Jesus	return to Nazareth, growth of Jesus
2:41-50	Jerusalem and environs	Passover	N, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Jewish teachers	Jesus’ incipient ministry
2:51-52	Nazareth	following years	N, Mary, Jesus	Mary’s “treasuring”; Jesus’ growth