



The Good Book Club Bible Study

Week 1: Readings for Group Discussion

LUKE 1:1-4

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

ACTS 1:1-2

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

Programmatic Statements: Luke's Agenda

LUKE 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

ACTS 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

THE SONGS OF HANNAH AND MARY

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (Translation from *A New English Translation of the Septuagint*, available here: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/nets/edition/09-1reigns-nets.pdf>)

And she said,

“My heart was made firm in the Lord;
my horn was exalted in my God;
my mouth was made wide against my enemies;
I was glad in your deliverance,
because there is none holy like the Lord,
and there is none righteous like our God;
there is none holy besides you.

“Boast not, and speak not lofty things;
let not big talking come forth from your mouth,
because the Lord is a god of knowledge,
and a god who prepares his own ways.
The bow of the mighty has become weak,
and weak ones have girded themselves with might;
full of bread they suffered loss,
and the hungry have forsaken the land,
because a barren one has borne seven,
and she who is rich in children became weak
The Lord puts to death and brings to life;
he brings down to Hades and brings up.
The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, and he raises on high.
He raises up the needy from the ground
and lifts the poor from the dunghill,
to make them sit with the mighty of the peoples
even making them inherit a throne of glory.

“Granting the prayer to the one who prays,
he has even blessed the years of the righteous,
because not by strength is a man mighty.
The Lord will make his adversary weak;
the Lord is holy.
Let not the clever boast in his cleverness,
and let not the mighty boast in his might,
and let not the wealthy boast in his wealth,
but let him who boasts boast in this:
to understand and know the Lord
and to execute justice and righteousness
in the midst of the land.
The Lord ascended to the heavens and thundered.

He will judge earth's ends
and gives strength to our kings
and will exalt the horn of his anointed.

Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”