



PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT®

*English Standard Version*

# *Luke*

PART 1

WHO IS THIS MAN  
WHO FORGIVES SINS?  
(CHAPTERS 1–16)

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*English Standard Version*

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WHO IS THIS MAN WHO FORGIVES SINS?  
(CHAPTERS 1–16)

ISBN 978-1-62119-108-7

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1<sup>st</sup> edition

Printed in the United States of America



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## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

**How to Study Your Bible**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010*

**The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013*

**Greek Word Study Tools**

**Commentaries on Luke**

*(See commentary list below.)*

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

LONGMAN III, TREMPER; GARLAND, DAVID E., eds.

**The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 10, Luke–Acts, Revised Edition**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007*

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., eds.

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament**

*Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985*

STEIN, ROBERT H.

**The New American Commentary, Vol. 24, Luke**

*Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 1992*

## RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

**Logos Bible Software**

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at [www.logos.com](http://www.logos.com).





## LESSON ONE

### Chapter One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:  
Observation Worksheets of Luke 1  
“Israel in the Time of Christ” map  
“The Roman Period”  
Cross-references

#### **GOD’S SILENCE IS BROKEN; PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED. IT’S THE FULLNESS OF TIME.**

**There had not been a word from the Lord for about 400 years. Was this the famine of silence prophesied by the Lord through Amos?**

**“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God,  
“when I will send a famine on the land—  
not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,  
but of hearing the words of the Lord.**

**(Amos 8:11)**

### DAY ONE

Oh what an adventure in God’s Word awaits us! We are so excited about this study of Luke. What you are going to learn, to discover for yourself . . . what you are going to experience as God Himself teaches you is only going to increase your knowledge of your Lord! And with that will come a new depth of awe of what it means to understand and live with a kingdom perspective on life.

Your assignment for today is one—read Luke chapter 1 prayerfully, thoughtfully, paragraph by paragraph. The text of Luke is in the Appendix under the title: Observation Worksheets.

1. Paragraph divisions are indicated by bold verse numbers.
2. As you read, use a pencil to record in the margin the theme—subject—covered in each paragraph.
3. If a paragraph focuses on a particular individual or individuals, write that down also.



DAY  
TWO

1. It is good to get in the habit of prayer—of committing your study to the Lord. As you pray and ask for understanding of the text, make sure you ask God to cleanse you “by the washing of water with the word,” as Ephesians 5:26 says, for this is the way He sets you apart so that you become more and more like Him. Transformed! Conformed to His image!
2. Yesterday you got an overview of the content of Luke 1. Today we want to observe the text more closely. Let’s see what God wants you to know about the people He mentions in this chapter, and the when and where of their lives.
  - a. Mark each of the following, including pronouns, in a distinctive color or combination of colors so that you can easily distinguish them.
    - 1) Zechariah
    - 2) Zechariah’s son John
    - 3) Elizabeth
    - 4) Mary
    - 5) Jesus
  - b. As you observe people, mark every reference to the *whens* and *wheres*. Some mark time references with a green circle and a squiggly line under the rest of the time phrase. We suggest that you double underline in green anything that answers *where*.
3. There’s a chart, “Main Characters of Luke 1,” at the end of the lesson. List on it the key information the text gives you about each of these people. If you are new to Precept, this may seem like busy work; however, it’s not. This will help you learn to differentiate truth from man’s imagination. By the way, we’ve included a second page in case you need it.

*Just stop and think of what you have seen for yourself from God’s Word. Have you learned things that you didn’t know before? Picked up details that you missed when you simply read the text? Careful, diligent observation is the foundation for accurate interpretation so observe, observe, observe!*

DAY  
THREE  
AND  
DAY  
FOUR

Now that you’ve read Luke 1 twice, you might have noticed that the author doesn’t give his name in this first chapter. In fact, like the other Gospel writers, he doesn’t give his name anywhere in the book. However, as you do commentary work later, you’ll see that a variety of factors point to Luke as the author.





1. After prayer, look at the first four verses of Luke. What purpose do these serve? What do you learn from them and why is it important? What does it tell you about this Gospel account?

2. Look up the definition of “orderly account” in Greek word study tools. Note what you learn.

3. When you observe the Word of God, you will find it beneficial to mark key repeated words in a particular chapter or book, as well as words not repeated frequently but significant to understanding the overall message of the Bible.

Read Luke 1 and mark in a distinctive color or way each of the words listed below, including their synonyms and pronouns. On the back cover of your workbook, you'll find suggestions for marking major key words used throughout the Word of God, including the words below that are marked with an asterisk.

- a. the *word*, including anything that refers to God speaking, for example verse 45 “spoken to her by [from] the Lord.”
- b. *righteous\** (*righteousness*)
- c. *temple\** (This is a reference to the rebuilt temple as described in the book of Ezra. It was later aggrandized by Herod the Great and was the temple of Jesus' day.)



- d. *prayer\**, *praying*
  - e. *Holy Spirit\**
  - f. *servant*
  - g. *mercy* (This will not be used again until Luke 10.)
  - h. *Israel\**
  - i. *salvation, saved*
  - j. *sin\**
4. Now, what did you learn from marking these words? Look at each place you marked to examine what you learn. You need not write it down unless it would be helpful to you. If you do not know the meaning of a word such as *righteousness* or *mercy* and cannot discern what it means from the context, then look up the word in a dictionary.
5. At this point in your study, do you feel that you have a better understanding of the purpose of Luke and its first chapter? You should, for you have done great work; yet there is more to glean from this chapter. For example, when did the events happen? What is the context of these events? Understanding context is critical to accurately interpreting a passage. Context is the setting of something, the environment in which something happens or is said. Contexts include historical and cultural elements.

So what is the historical context of Luke 1? Are we given any clues as to when this occurs?

- a. Look at the references to time you marked. What do you learn about the *when* of these events? When they begin?



- b. Then what follows verse 5? List the major events and their time phrases all the way to verse 80.

6. Now, let's look at the cultural context.
  - a. What do these people in this chapter have in common?
  
  - b. What happens on the eighth day of John's life?
  
  - c. Compare this event with Genesis 17:9-14.



- d. What did you learn about family and community in Luke 1?
- e. Geographically, where are these events happening? There's a map in the Appendix titled "Israel in the Time of Christ."
- 1) Where is the temple?
  - 2) Where is Nazareth?
  - 3) Where is the hill country of Judea?
7. There are two "declarations" in this chapter. The first is Mary's declaration in verses 46-55 and is often referred to as the "Magnificat," which is Latin for "magnifies."
- a. Read these verses and then write who and what these words focus on.
  - b. Mark the references to this person. When you finish, think about what you have learned from Mary about this person. As you do, think about this woman, who she is, what she's saying.
    - 1) What are your thoughts?
    - 2) Is there any relationship between Mary's proclamation and what has happened? If so, what?



- 3) What do Mary's words tell you about the significance of the child who will be born to her?
  
8. In the Appendix of your workbook you'll find a chart taken from the *NISB* (*The New Inductive Study Bible*) that covers the Roman period as it relates to the nation of Israel. Look at it carefully. You will see a number of "Herods."
  - a. Which is the Herod of Luke 1?
  
  - b. If you have access to a Bible dictionary, see what you can learn about this Herod. It will help you understand the setting of Luke 1.
  
9. Finally, feel free to see what your commentaries say about Luke 1:1-56 but don't go any further, as you have yet to do more observations on Zechariah's words. We will do that tomorrow.

DAY  
FIVE

1. Why don't you begin today by reading Luke 1:57-80? Then pray, asking God to show you the rich truths of Zechariah's words and where you fit into them.
2. When Zechariah speaks, according to the text what is he doing?
3. Mark every reference to the Lord God in verses 67-79 as you marked Him in verses 46-55. When you finish, think about what you learn about God from these verses. You might want to jot down the main points in the space provided.





2) Genesis 15:1-6, 18

3) Galatians 3:16

4) Galatians 3:6-9

6. Now let's look at David. What do you learn from the following verses about David and what Zechariah is saying?
  - a. According to Luke 1:68-69, what has God done and how?

b. 2 Samuel 7:8, 12-13, 16



c. Psalm 89:3-4

d. Psalm 132:10-12

e. Matthew 1:1

7. Now let's look at what Luke 1 tells us about John's relationship to Jesus along with the following cross-references. Record what you learn from the scriptures.

a. Compare Luke 1:16-17, 76 with Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6.

b. According to Luke 1:77, what else will John do and with respect to who?





c. Compare Luke 1:79 with Isaiah 9:2, 6-7.

8. Good work. We commend you for honoring God's Word by diligently studying it that you might handle it accurately. You have His promise in 2 Timothy 2:15. Feel free to consult your commentaries.
9. Finally, what has been special to you this first week? What impact will it have on your life? Write it out and then thank God for what He, by His Spirit, has taught you.





MAIN CHARACTERS OF LUKE 1

Jesus	
Mary	
Zechariah's son John	
Elizabeth	
Zechariah	



**Luke Part 1**

*Lesson 1, Main Characters of Luke 1*

MAIN CHARACTERS OF LUKE 1

Jesus	
Mary	
Zechariah's son John	
Elizabeth	
Zechariah	



## LUKE 1

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- INASMUCH as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us,
- 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,
  - 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,
  - 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.
  - 5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.
  - 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.
  - 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.
  - 8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,
  - 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.
  - 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.
  - 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
  - 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.
  - 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.
  - 14 “And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,



- 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.
- 16 "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,  
17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."
- 18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."
- 19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.
- 20 "And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."
- 21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.
- 22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.
- 23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.
- 24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying,  
25 "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."
- 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,  
27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.
- 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"
- 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.



- 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
- 31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.
- 32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,
- 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
- 34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”
- 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.
- 36 “And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.
- 37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.
- 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,
- 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
- 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,
- 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!
- 43 “And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- 44 “For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
- 45 “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”
- 46 And Mary said,
- “My soul magnifies the Lord,



47           and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48           for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
              For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
49           for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
              and holy is his name.  
50           “And his mercy is for those who fear him  
              from generation to generation.  
51           “He has shown strength with his arm;  
              he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
52           he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
              and exalted those of humble estate;  
53           he has filled the hungry with good things,  
              and the rich he has sent away empty.  
54           “He has helped his servant Israel,  
              in remembrance of his mercy,  
55           as he spoke to our fathers,  
              to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”  
  
56           And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.  
57           Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.  
58           And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy  
              to her, and they rejoiced with her.  
59           And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would  
              have called him Zechariah after his father,  
60           but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”  
61           And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.”  
62           And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be  
              called.  
63           And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they  
              all wondered.  
64           And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he  
              spoke, blessing God.



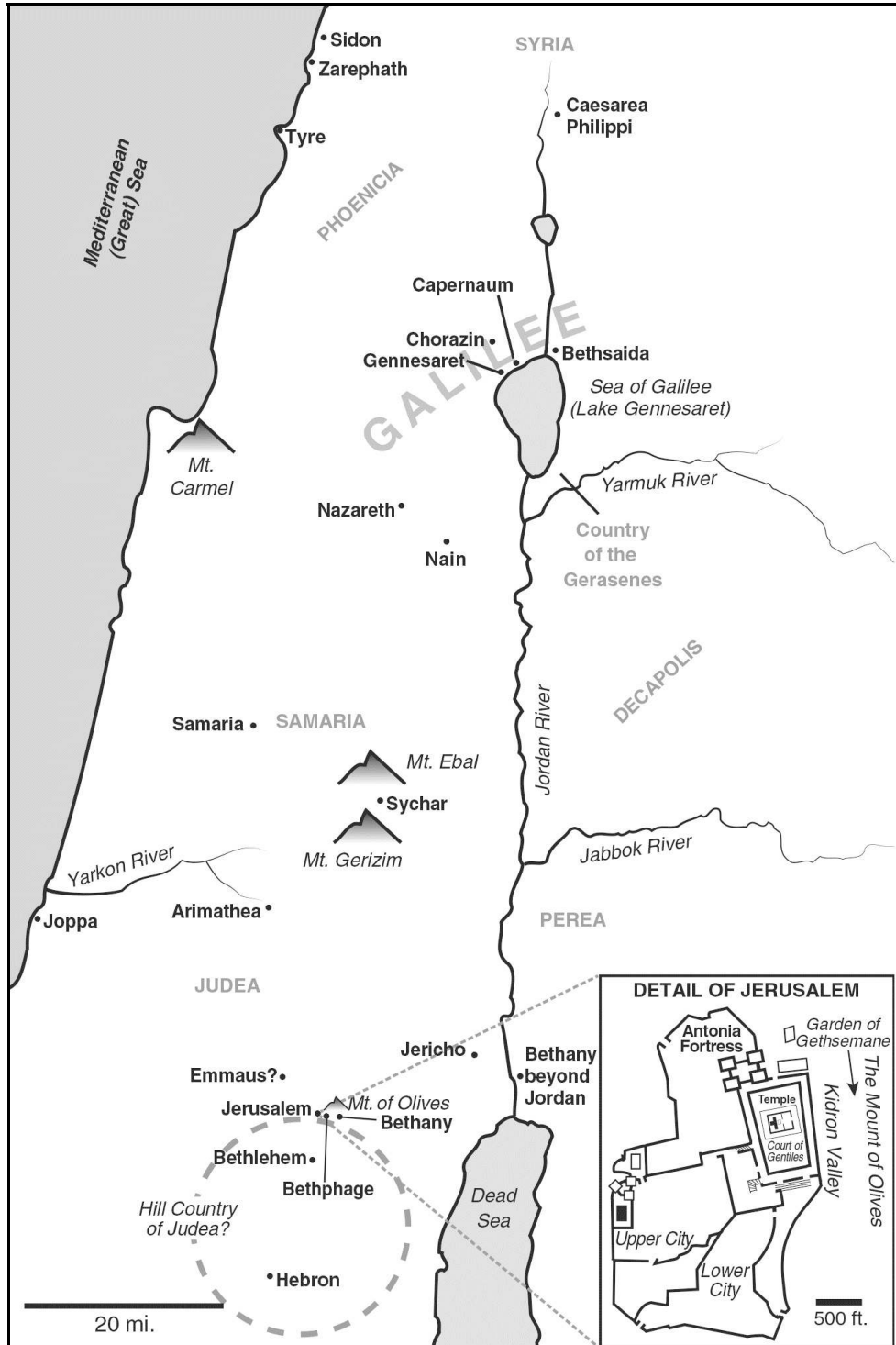


- 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about  
through all the hill country of Judea,
- 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will  
this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.
- 67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,  
saying,
- 68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people
- 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,
- 70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
71 that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;
- 72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,
- 73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,
- 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
- 76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
- 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,
- 78 because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
- 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
- 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the  
wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.





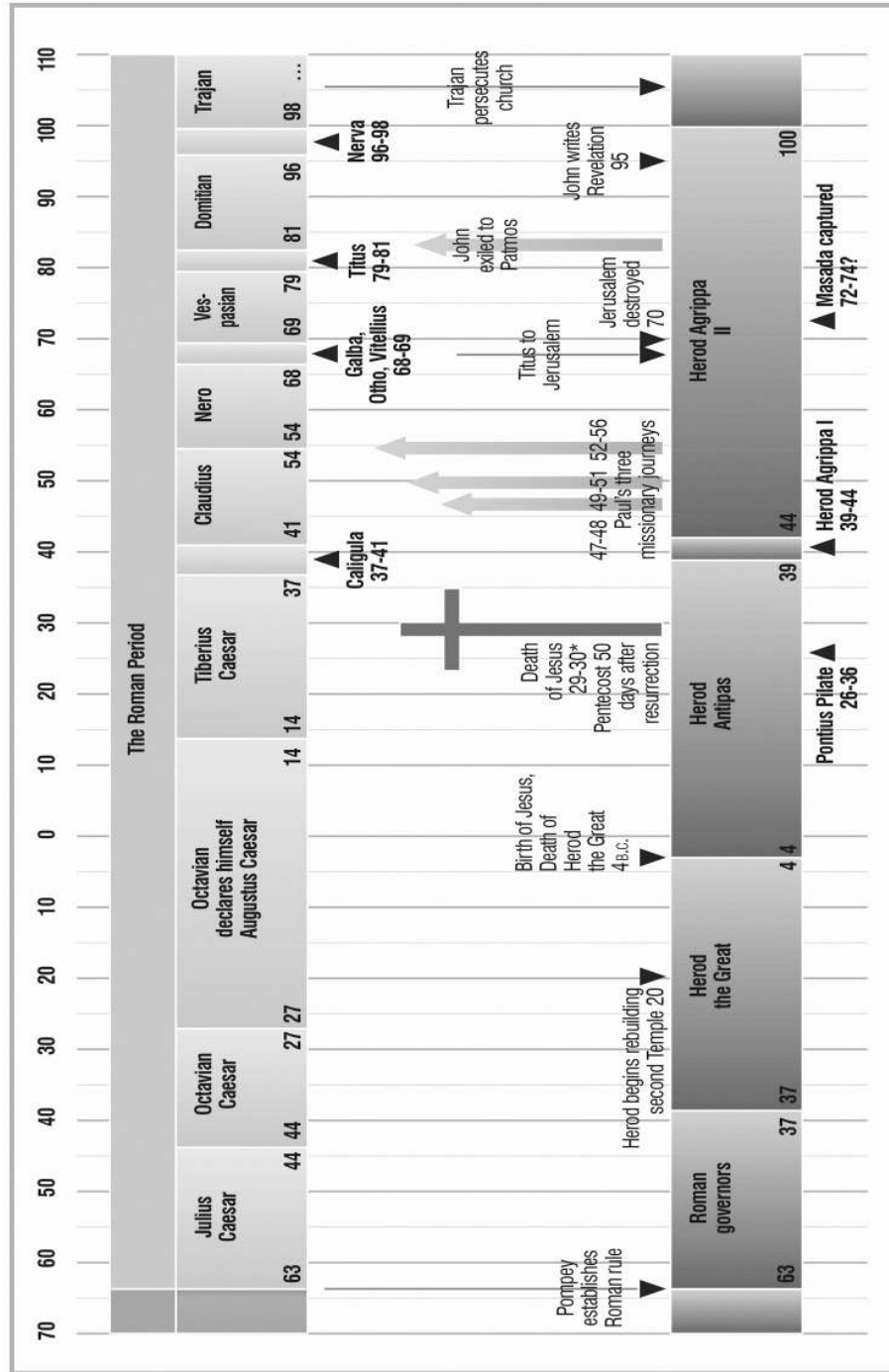
### Israel in the Time of Christ







**THE ROMAN PERIOD**



\*Some scholars say 40-33

