

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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BREAKING THE SILENCE

Luke 1:1-4

Do you realize that you only have 24 more days of shopping until Christmas day? Don't worry there is always **ONLINE** Shopping which is my favorite way. Christmas is certainly a time of waiting and expectation. Today I am starting a Christmas series called "**PREPARE HIM ROOM**" which will be a little unusual, but I believe will be very important during this Christmas season.

Postmodernism is the prevailing philosophy of our day, which is the belief there is no such thing as absolute truth. Rather, truth is personal and subjective – I have my truth and you have your truth. This philosophy is not only "out there" but also in the evangelical church. Pollster Barna claims that 53% of born-again believers do not believe in absolute truth. So many new Christians today talk about how they "**FEEL**" rather than what the

Bible says. Here's what we're going to learn today: If we are going **To Break The Silence** – you must **Build your faith on facts, not feelings.**

Let me remind you while God used human authors to write Scripture, this is not a human book (**2 Peter 1:21**). Our Scripture passage in **Luke 1:1-4** there are a few things we know about the human author and his approach. It is important that we **Break the Silence** about the real truth concerning Christmas and the Savior and **Luke's prologue gives us four facts about our faith.**

I. CHRISTIANITY IS HISTORICAL

Look at **V-1** again with me and what do we see and learn? Luke begins with the word, "**inasmuch**," (NKJV) (**forasmuch**- KJV) which conveys accuracy and can be translated, "**Since now**." It's interesting that Luke uses the phrase, "fulfilled (NKJV) or are most surely believed (KJV)" among us," which means it was "**performed in the past; and was fulfilled fully**" in plain view of many people. (**John 1:14**)

Christianity is not just a religious philosophy but rather as one pastor says, "It's primarily about the God who created the universe miraculously invading human history in the person of Jesus Christ who uniquely revealed God to us."

II. CHRISTIANITY IS VERIFIABLE –

Our faith is not only rooted in reliable history, it is verifiable according to **verse 2**. The word "**beginning**" refers to the events

surrounding the births of John and Jesus in the first two chapters of Luke's record. Drop down to **verse 5** to see how we can verify the veracity of his writing about the birth of John. We see here the: **when, who, what, and where**. The details related to the birth of Jesus are also verifiable in **verses 26-27**.

In his research, Luke consulted **V-2** "**eyewitnesses and ministers of the word**." Let's hover over these two terms.

III. CHRISTIANITY IS ORDERLY –

Let's drill into **V-3** now. As a careful physician, trained in noting every detail, he gave a "**orderly account**." (NKJV) This means he "attended carefully and accurately." Luke was a reputable historian who did deep research, conducting intensive interviews to put his narrative together. He interviewed eyewitnesses and pulled together other source material. As a doctor, he was observant, thoughtful and persuasive. As a scientist, he was accustomed to handling data and details as he crafted it all together into a compelling narrative we know as the Gospel According to Luke. Incidentally, if you have a skeptical and scientific mind with a logical leaning, this book is for you.

Beloved, the Bible is **fact**, not **fiction**. **What's contained in this book is inspired and inerrant**, it's not legend but the actual life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke's purpose was to present Jesus in all His fullness, focusing on historical, verifiable and orderly facts so his readers could know that his account was absolutely accurate and remarkably reliable. Oral history can change but what is written and recorded endures.

We can build our faith on facts, not feelings because Christianity is **historical, verifiable and orderly**. And because of that...

IV. CHRISTIANITY IS ORDERLY –

We don't have to focus on our feelings or conjure up some kind of seasonal sentimentality. We can know for sure that it's true according to **verse 4**. The word "**certainty**" means, "to know fully and thoroughly, to become fully acquainted with." When John wrote his account of the life of Jesus, he wanted his readers to be certain so they so that their salvation was based on facts not fiction. (**John 20:30-31**). Shortly after the Book of Nehemiah ends, God spoke through the prophet Malachi, calling the people out for their sins. And then, for the next 400 years, heaven is silent...until God breaks in by sending an angel to speak to Zechariah.

We are so fortunate that God broke through all the crazy chaos and spoke into the silence that had lasted four hundred years.

(**vs. 11-13, V-28**)