

Spirit-filled Songs of Praise in Luke's Gospel

[\(Luke 1-2\)](#) 5783 B"H, updated 2/20/23

Last week, I focused on [Dr.Luke, Gospel-writer](#). His purpose in writing was so that the beloved ones would ["know for sure the Truth."](#) We will see today that Luke was also very interested in recording examples of [Spirit-filled praise](#).

As we continue to look at [Luke's](#) writings, I'd like to point out his early focus on praise hymns. Before the [first chapter](#) of the [Gospel of Luke](#) ends, he has already shared with us the song of praise (often called the ["Magnificat"](#)) of Mary (Miriam), the mother of Jesus (Yeshua).

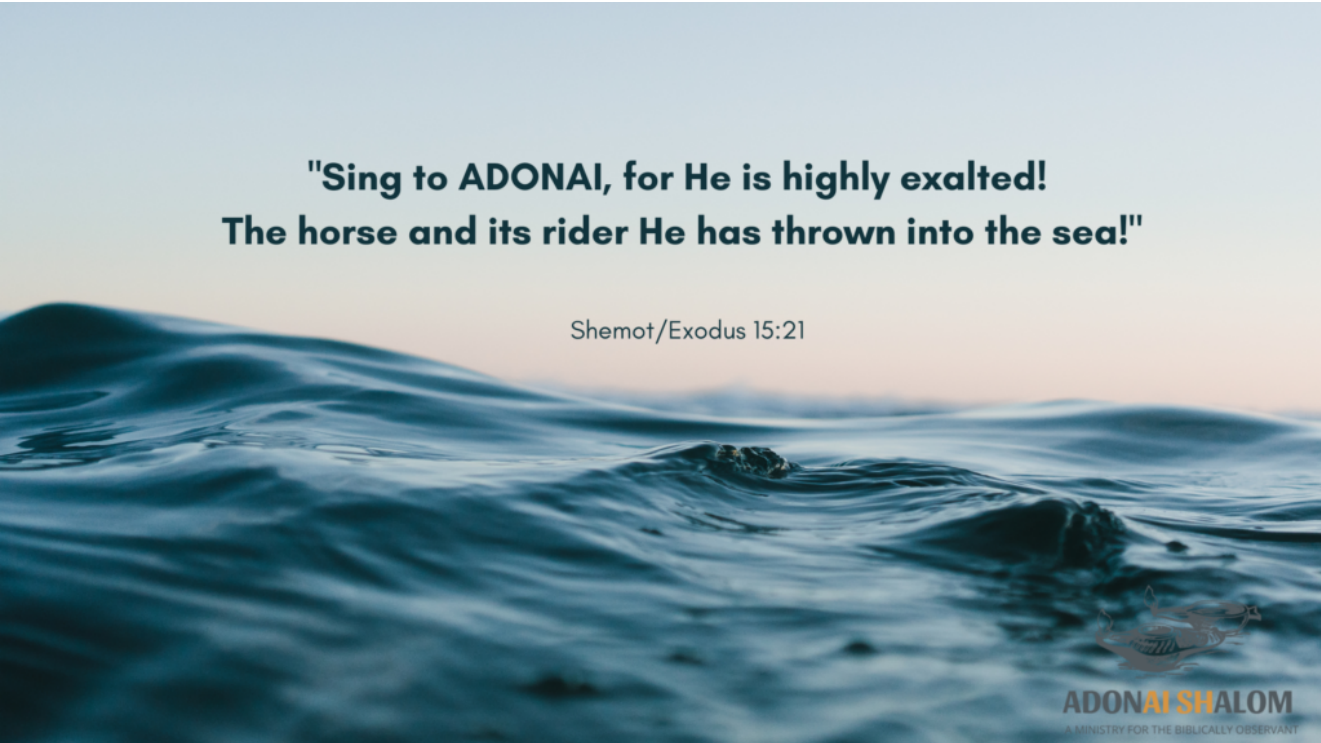
This indicates to me that Luke was a worshipper. It seems to me that Dr.Luke had a heart filled with praise which inspired Him to write and share the Good News with us.

Miriam the Prophetess & Miriam, Mother of Messiah

When we hear the name "Miriam" related to Scripture, it is not uncommon to immediately think of Miriam the Prophetess, Moshe's (Moses') brave sister [\(Shemot/Exodus 15:20\)](#).

Both [Moshe \(Moses\) and Miriam sang praises to ADONAI](#) for leading them to safety through the parted waters of the Red Sea [\(Shemot/Exodus 15\)](#). With tambourine in hand, Miriam led dancing and singing:

["Sing to ADONAI, for He is highly exalted! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!" Exodus 15:21](#)



**"Sing to ADONAI, for He is highly exalted!
The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"**

Shemot/Exodus 15:21

ADONAI SHALOM
A MINISTRY FOR THE BIBLICALLY OBSERVANT

The praises sang in the Sinai desert set a precedent for the way praise would be offered throughout the Scriptures. Even today, we ought use these patterns for our praise – unashamedly rejoicing before the LORD in song and celebration.

Every bit of the Bible is compelling, but I find it very fascinating that **Miriam the Prophetess is not the only Miriam in Scripture.**

The mother of Yeshua (Jesus) was also a Miriam. “Mary” is anglicized. Back in ancient Bethlehem, it wasn’t “Mary and Joseph:” it was “Yosef and Miriam” blessed with their beautiful Son, Yeshua.

[Luke’s Gospel account](#) records that when Miriam visited Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) filled Elizabeth “completely” ([Luke 1:41](#), TLV).

In response to that Spirit-driven experience, Prophetess Miriam praised the LORD using the types of phrasing typical of Hebrew poetry. It is likely that Miriam, mother of Jesus (Yeshua) was inspired by the praise song sung by the other Miriam, sister of Moses:

"Then Miriam said,

'My soul magnifies ADONAI,

and my spirit greatly rejoices in God, my Savior.

For He has looked with care upon the humble state of His
maidservant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done a great thing for me,
and holy is His name.

And His mercy is from generation to generation
to the ones who fear Him.

He has displayed power with His arm

He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down rulers from thrones
and exalted humble ones.

He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent away the rich empty-handed.

He has helped His servant Israel,
remembering His mercy,

just as He spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his seed forever.'" Luke 1:46-55

Zechariah the Priest (Kohen)

Luke, being the very detail-oriented doctor that he was, made sure to record the song sung by Priest Zechariah because of its prophetic Truth.

Zechariah, too, was filled with the Holy Spirit (Ruach haKodesh) and Luke makes sure to point that out.

Notice the parallels between the songs of the Miriams and Zechariah. They begin by magnifying the LORD, blessing His Holy Name. The Bible says that Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore prophesied about his son Yochanan (John [the Baptist/Immerser]) as well as Messiah Yeshua our Savior Jesus:

"Blessed be ADONAI,
God of Israel,
for He has looked after His people
and brought them redemption.
He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of His servant David,
just as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ages
past,
salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us!
So He shows mercy to our fathers
and remembers His holy covenant,
the vow which He swore to Abraham
our father, to grant us—
rescued fearlessly from the hand of
our enemies—to serve Him,
in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.
And you, child, will be called a prophet of Elyon.
For you will go before ADONAI to prepare His ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to His people
through removal of their sins.
Through our God's heart of mercy,
the Sunrise from on high will come upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet in the way of shalom." Luke 1:67-79



The Army of Heaven

Are you familiar with Chris Tomlin's song, [Whom Shall I Fear? \(The God of Angel Armies\)](#)?

I particularly love the line, ["The One who reigns forever, He is a Friend of mine!"](#)

Think about that! Let it sink in! The God of the Heavenly Armies, the All-Victorious, Almighty One, who reigns forever – is also your Friend. A Friend of mine!? Then yes, whom shall I fear? The Commander-In-Chief, the Eternal Protector, just so happens to be the One I can call upon at any moment and He will send heavenly host reinforcements. Immediately. He's that Powerful. He's that Loving. He's that good of a Friend. *ADONAI-Tzva'ot!*

["A multitude of heavenly armies"](#) proclaimed the birth of our Messiah:

["Glory to God in the highest, and on earth *shalom* to men of good will."](#) Luke 2:13-14

Luke recorded these songs of praise to inspire us to do the same.

Praise the LORD today!

Does your soul magnify ADONAI?

Do you sing praises to the LORD Most High?

Have you, like those who have gone before us, recognized the Sovereignty of God in your life?

Do you rejoice in God your Savior?

Have you been rescued and delivered by His Mighty hand of power?

Are you filled with the glorious Holy Spirit?

Praise the LORD for all He has done!

[“For the Mighty One has done a great thing for me, and holy is His Name.” Luke 1:49](#)

Asbury Awakening

We appear to be witnessing a revival, or what is often more historically termed, an “awakening,” at Asbury University. As I wrote on our [Adonai Shalom Facebook page](#),

“Let’s pray for the students of Asbury University. May this be a true revival/spiritual awakening that our nation and world so desperately needs. I have been cautiously optimistic that what is going on there may become the Azusa Street of our day. This generation has been raised on coffee and donuts in the church and is hungry for real spiritual nourishment. I pray this generation learns true worship and experiences the authentic power of the Eternal One! I also pray for the administration because the logistics of what is going on at

the university must be quite a challenge to navigate. But may the LORD have His way and may hearts turn to Messiah Yeshua (Jesus)!"

This is such an exciting event to witness! We are in the last days, and there will again be Spirit-filled songs of praise lifted to our Most High God who is worthy of all honor and glory forever and ever. With all the modern technology, people have found out about the revival and are traveling from all over the world, hungry to experience the LORD. The Spirit of God is not limited to that place, but there will be people who, like the wise men, need to go there to see what it is the LORD has done and they will go and spread that news elsewhere. We should pray that this wonderful spirit of repentance and revival will continue and truly have a global impact.

Keep your eyes fixed on our Savior Yeshua (Jesus) – because He will come back for His own!



May you be most especially blessed today!

Luke: “That you may know for sure the Truth”

[\(Luke 1\)](#) 5783 B”H

I really love the Gospel of Luke and his sequel, the book of Acts.

Luke was a doctor. A learned man. He valued people and wanted to see them live healthy, full lives.

Do you know a doctor like that? Someone who went into the profession less for the money and more for the people? It’s not always easy to find a physician like that, but when you do, it is a blessing.

All too often, doctors rely on their extensive medical knowledge more than they do on God – the Giver of all that intelligence.

But Luke was different.

A doctor who encountered the Healer

Dr. Luke was certainly well-prepared and intelligent, yet he valued the spiritual side of things and was humble enough to recognize that there is an Almighty Healer.

As evidenced by his chronicling of the ministry of Yeshua (Jesus), Luke was very detail-oriented. Like any wise doctor, he would make thorough observations knowing that attention to detail could mean the difference between life and death.

Luke would have known firsthand that human medical practices were limited.

Surely he had been bedside when a patient succumbed to illness or injury and knew the feeling of helplessness, unable to prescribe a curing remedy.

Can you imagine the curiosity Luke must have felt when he witnessed the healing miracles of our Messiah? How perplexing! Was he skeptical at first? Did he try to explain it away using scientific reasoning? Or was he overjoyed that there was a true Healer?

Luke encountered the One who made the true difference between life and death – the One who defeated death and grants new and eternal Life.

As Luke realized that the Great Physician, Yeshua (Jesus) had come, he began to carefully document what he had seen in order to provide an orderly record to his beloved friends in the faith (*ie. Theophilus*). He must have been so fascinated, so captivated!

I'm confident Luke wondered: *how could it be that this Man, Yeshua (Jesus), had authority to cast out sicknesses, heal diseases, and resurrect the dead!?*

Luke the Gospel writer knew others were doing the same thing – ["undertak\[ing\] to organize an account of the event fulfilled among us . . . "](#) (Luke 1:1). The Tree of Life Version gives an appropriate heading to the opening of Luke: **"A Doctor Charts the Facts."** Luke wanted to make sure his account was accurate, to give yet another layer of evidence that the testimonies about the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) were indeed true.

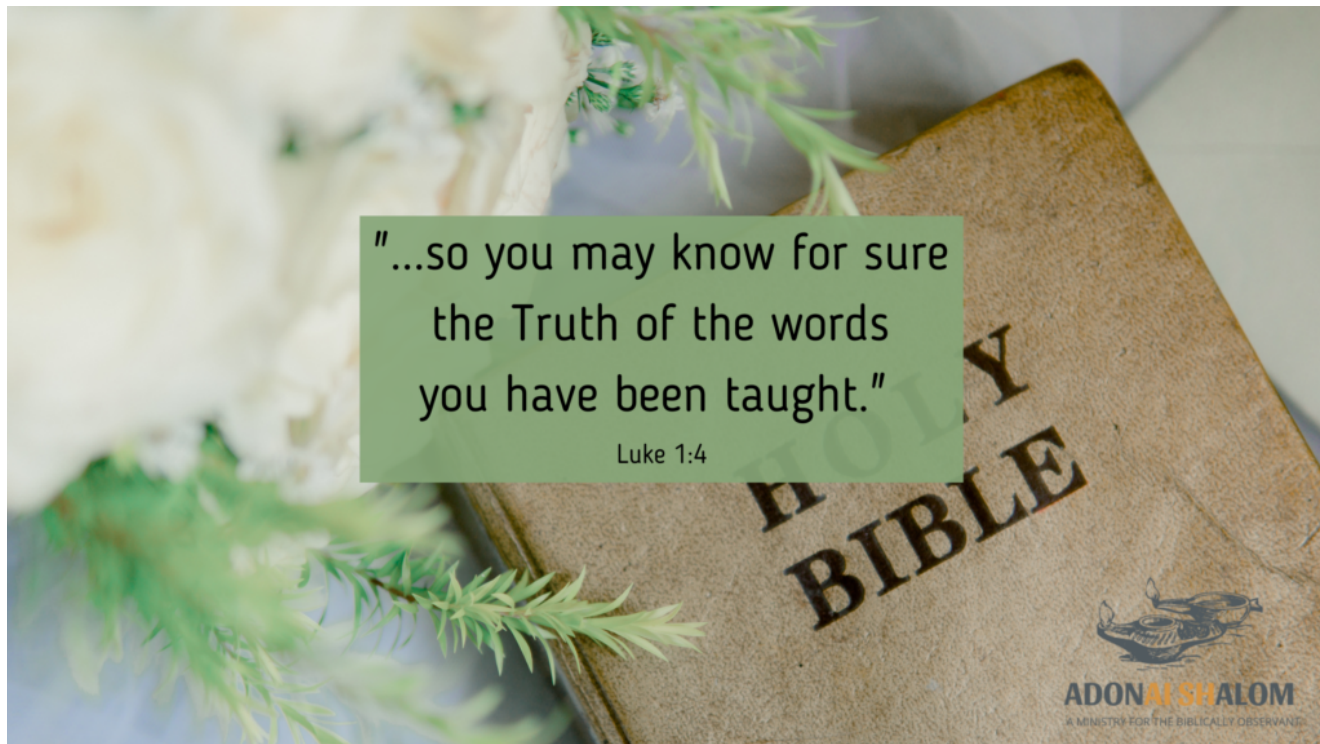
[In his own words: "Therefore it seemed best to me also, because I have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, to write for you an orderly record, most excellent Theophilus, so you may know for sure the truth of the words you have been taught."](#)

[Luke 1:3-4](#), *emphasis added*

That you may know.

For sure.

The Truth.



“Many convincing proofs”

Doctors would love to know things “for sure,” but usually they are making the best educated guess possible:

Maybe you have this going on...

We need to rule out x, y, or z . . .

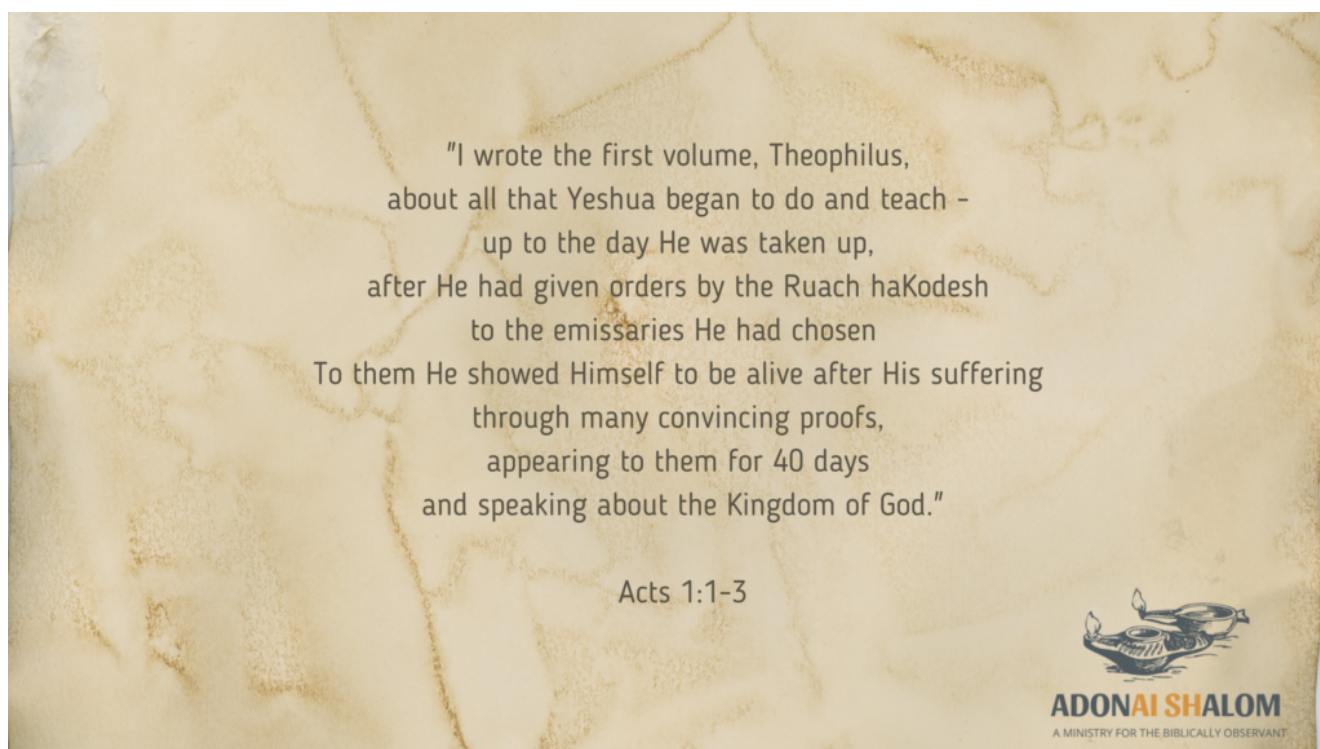
Dr. Luke the Gospel writer was no exception. He didn’t believe that the Savior of the world came just because he saw one or two signs. His acceptance of Yeshua (Jesus) as the promised Messiah wasn’t based on what the crowds of people were saying.

He observed and concluded there were [“many convincing proofs”](#) ([Acts 1:3](#)) and wrote the second volume to his historical record, what is now known as the Acts of the Apostles.

Here he continues:

"I wrote the first volume, Theophilus, about all that Yeshua began to do and teach – up to the day He was taken up, after He had given orders by the Ruach haKodesh to the emissaries He had chosen. To them He showed Himself to be alive after His suffering **through many convincing proofs**, appearing to them for 40 days and speaking about the kingdom of God."

Acts 1:1-3, emphasis added



If you are familiar with the book of Acts, you know that Luke doesn't shy away from reporting on the [miraculous](#). Luke trusted that what Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah came to do by the power of the *Ruach haKodesh* (the Holy Spirit) was absolutely true and verifiable.

Yeshua (Jesus) showed Himself to be alive after being crucified

Doctors, even back in Bible times, are trained to read a pulse and understand vital signs. It is thought that Luke probably

studied at one of the medical schools in Tarsus, Pergamum, or even Athens.

Obviously then, as a doctor, Luke would know when to pronounce someone dead. And living in the Roman Empire . . . harsh, cruel deaths were commonplace. He knew that Yeshua (Jesus) had been crucified. Crucifixion was one of the worst possible ways to die: a suffocating and bloody death.

Left hanging on a cross: chance of survival 0%.

Yet this Holy Man, this Yeshua (Jesus) . . . “presented Himself alive!”

He showed Himself to the disciples.

And not just once.

Luke tells us He showed Himself to be alive, appearing to the disciples for 40 days!

Who else has died, been buried, and then wakes up and presents themself to people for 40 days?

Had Luke or the disciples thought the resurrection and subsequent appearances were mere dreams or hallucinations, he had the credentials to identify them as such and dismiss them.

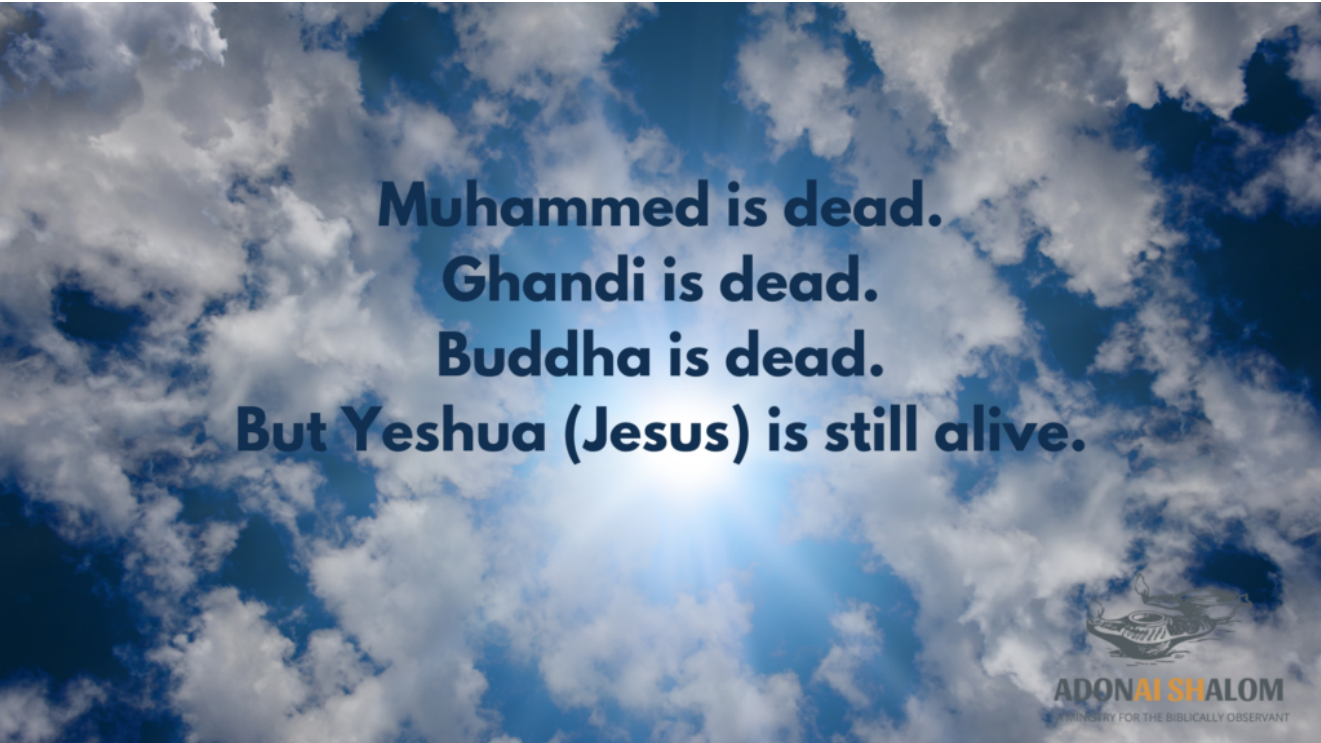
Before I became a believer, I heard something that helped me sort out the confusion. Maybe it will help you, too:

Muhammed is dead.

Ghandi is dead.

Buddha is dead.

But Yeshua (Jesus) is still alive.



**Muhammed is dead.
Ghandi is dead.
Buddha is dead.
But Yeshua (Jesus) is still alive.**



Yeshua (Jesus) was dead and buried, yes, but that tomb is empty.

To this day, there is a sign at the tomb in Jerusalem that says, "He is not here for He is Risen."

This is absolutely remarkable and Luke knew it! He knew there was abundant evidence confirming that the Savior of the world was alive and that what He taught was true.

Do you know this Gospel Truth?

Has your life been changed by the power of the Gospel?

If you are a person who needs proof, who needs evidence, then Luke is your guy! We will be going through the book of Luke together, and **I hope that you will be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that Yeshua (Jesus) is indeed the Messiah, the Savior, the Redeemer, and King of all kings!**