

**The True Story of the Whole World**  
**Immanuel! Jesus of Nazareth**  
**Luke 1 – 4:20**

Promised Land	Exile and Return	Jesus of Nazareth	The early church
Joshua	Samaria falls	Birth	The Great Commission
Judges	Judah falls	The Kingdom of God	The Holy Spirit
Kings	Exile in Babylon	Suffering and crucifixion	The church together
Saul	Return to Judah	Resurrection and ascension	The church scattered
David	Intertestamental period		Inclusion of Gentiles
Solomon			“Into all the world”
Divided Kingdom			

***In a nutshell....***

*One cannot understand the coming of Jesus without understanding the context. A review of True Story, pp 95-106, is most helpful. The expectations for a Messiah were high, and varied. One will do well to consider how the reality of Jesus coming matched these expectations.*

*The “Christmas Story” has become a major component for the Christian faith in many places. While likely not as ‘front and center’ as understood today, it nevertheless is a dramatic announcement of the a new reality.....Immanuel....God with us. The King is here among us, and announces the Kingdom of God which is at hand.*

**Sound familiar?**

- John the Baptist. Luke 1:5-25; 57-80  
Luke 3:1-22
- Mary visited by Gabriel . Luke 1:26-38
- Mary’s Magnificat Luke 1:46-55
- “In the days of Caesar Augustus” Luke 2
- The shepherds, angels, “no room at the inn”  
Luke 2:1-14
- Blessings of Simeon and Anna Luke 2:25-40
- 12 year old Jesus in the Temple Luke 2:41-52
- The temptation of Jesus in the desert  
Luke 4: 1-13
- Jesus begins his ministry Luke 4:14-20

**Main ideas from “Immanuel! Jesus of Nazareth”**

- Jesus birth stories give witness to him being both fully human, and fully divine
- Jesus is seen as the “long expected one”, who will re-establish God’s people for the dreamed-of purposes of God, the fulfillment of ancient prophecies and present day hope.
- Luke carefully locates Jesus ministry within events in the Roman Empire, and also places him within the ‘house and lineage of David”
- Worth noting is the prologue (Luke 1:1-4). Luke makes it clear he has carefully ‘picked and chosen’ amongst various ‘accounts’ circulating, with the goal of accuracy.

**Other Biblical references**

You are encouraged to read through the 4 Gospel accounts as we work our way in this and following sections.

**Hymns**

**(not available)**

### **General questions for Biblical reflection**

1. What do you notice about God in this text?
2. Is there any part of the text that is surprising? Why?
3. What in this text encourages, troubles, surprises, or confuses you?
4. Is there anything in this text you had never noted before? Why do you think it stood out to you this time?
5. How does the action in this passage fit into God's salvation plan?

### **Specific to the texts for this Sunday**

1. How is the coming of Jesus, and the way he comes, consistent with the drama thus far?
2. How is the coming of Jesus, and the way he comes, a surprise in the drama?
3. In terms of the overarching narrative thus far, how does the traditional North American "Christmas spirit" centering on 'baby Jesus' add (or detract) from the themes of the narrative?
4. Review the kings who have appeared thus far in the story. How is the appearance of this 'king' (Jesus) similar or different? What conclusions might one draw from these comparisons?
5. What is the role of the desert temptations as a final preparation for Jesus 'inauguration proclamation" in 4:21? Have similar temptations appeared previously in our drama?
6. Place yourself in the audience at his first appearance in his 'home-town' synagogue in Nazareth. What are you feeling? Thinking?