

- ↳ **Luke 3:1-2;** The beginning of Luke 3 is very historical in nature; Luke is a very careful historian. 30 years have elapsed since Chapter 2; the last we heard of Jesus and John, **Luke 2:52; Luke 1:80. Galatians 4:4-5;** John and Jesus were 30 and the political, social, historical and religious situations were exactly where God wanted them to be.
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1. The call of John the Baptist.

- ✓ "The word of God came to John," this was his call to begin his ministry. This is the standard statement when God calls a person to His service, **Genesis 15:1; 1st Samuel 15:10; Ezekiel 1:3.**
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2. The Historical, Political and Religious settings, 7 terrible names.

- ✓ The exact year, month and day is not what Luke is after here; he wants to communicate to us the condition of things more than the timing. These were dark, desperate, oppressive, apostate, hypocritical times.
- 1) **Tiberias Caesar.** Tiberius was the typical Caesar who thought he was God, completely pagan, and saw the Jews as purely a paycheck.
- 2) **Pontius Pilate.** Prefect of Rome from 26 to 36 AD. The last of a series of 5 prefects that Rome sent to rule over Judea. His number one job was to make sure that the tax money kept an uninterrupted flow back to Rome and, number two, to kill anyone who got in the way of that. He ruled the most populated piece of Israel, but there were 3 other pieces of the Israeli pie ruled by 3 more terrible names.
- 3) **Herod Antipas.** One of the sons of Herod the Great; he's the one who had John the Baptist executed. The same Herod who gains an audience with Jesus the day He's crucified and mocks Him, dresses Him in a purple robe, and returns Him to Pontius Pilate for crucifixion.
- 4) **Phillip.** Antipas' brother who ruled another slice of Israel; not a good guy at all.
- 5) **5) Lybanias.** Tetrarch or Abilene (the only Texan) who ruled the remaining portion of Israel. These Gentile rulers were wicked, low-ranking, petty kings, leaving Israel occupied, oppressed, and in bondage. Israel had not been dominated like this since Pharaoh threw their baby boys into the Nile river.
 - ✓ Two more terrible names to go, and these were far worse because they were just as corrupt as the Gentiles rulers, **but they exercised their corruption in the name of God.**
- 6) **Annas, 7) Caiaphas.** Immediately we know something's wrong because there couldn't be two high priests. Annas and Caiaphas are listed as high priests because that's the way they were running it. Rome was appointing high priests in Israel now; God was given no consideration and Rome appointed men who thought as they did. The high priesthood was effectively a crime family.

They had turned the house of prayer "Into a den of thieves"!!, John 8:33.
