

## St. Luke 1 Study Questions

1. **Luke 1:5-2:52** Why does St. Luke consider the OT an unfinished book?

Footnote p. 103, **1:5-2:52 Luke's infancy narrative**

2. **Luke 1:15** What is the Old Testament significance of Gabriel's prophecy that John the Baptist would "drink no wine nor strong drink"?

Who are some other figures who had the same commitment as John?

Footnote p. 104, **1:15 No wine nor strong drink**

3. **Luke 1:18, 34** Compare these two passages. How are they different?

How do the ways their questions are worded reveal that Zechariah doubts and Mary believes?

Footnote p. 105, **1:34 How can this be**

4. **Luke 1:28** What considerations help us understand the meaning of the title "full of grace" that Gabriel gives to Mary?

Why is the Greek more revealing than the traditional rendering that St. Jerome gives?

Footnote p. 105, **1:28 Full of grace** (Part way down in the footnote)

**CCC 490** To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

5. **Luke 1:35** Why is the angel's use of the term "overshadow" significant?

What Old Testament passage uses the term? In that passage, what was overshadowed?

Footnote p. 105, **1:35 Overshadow you**

**Exodus 40:34-35** Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

6. **Topical Essay: Mary, Ark of the Covenant** (p. 107)

a. How does Luke draw upon traditions from Second Samuel and the Books of Chronicles to portray Mary as the Ark of the Covenant?

**2 Samuel 6:2** David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim.

b. In what respects is it appropriate to compare Mary to the Ark of the Covenant?

c. Why is that comparison important to modern Christians?