

# THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

(A NARRATIVE AS COMPILED BY LUKE AND FOUGHT FOR BY JUDE)



## 1. Luke compiled a narrative so that we can have certainty about salvation through Jesus Christ.

- (Luke 1:1–4 ESV) Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile **a narrative** of the things that have been accomplished among us, **2** just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, **3** **it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you**, most excellent Theophilus, **4** **that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.**

Narrative—a message that tells the particulars of an act or occurrence or course of events.

### A. Jesus (the Son of Man) came to find lost sinners and save them.

- (Luke 19:10 ESV) **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**

### B. Jesus (the Christ) would accomplish his objective by suffering and on the third day rise from the dead so that we might have the forgiveness of sins.

- (Luke 24:44–47 ESV) Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he

opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and said to them, “Thus it is written, **that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead**, **47** **and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins** should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

## 2. Jude changed the original focus of his letter because of the threat to the truth of the gospel by certain people who had come in unnoticed and were corrupting the inspired narrative.

- (Jude 3–4 ESV) Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, **I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.** **4** For **certain people have crept in unnoticed** who long ago were designated for this condemnation, **ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**
- (Revelation 3:8 ESV) I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, **and yet you have kept my word** and **have not denied my name.**

**Contend ...** ἐπαγωνίζομαι [epagonizomai] ... to fight for; earnestly contend and agonize for; to struggle for; to make a strenuous or labored effort.

A. Jude's original intent was to write about the salvation he shared with them but realized the urgent, pressing need was to rally the troops to fight for the gospel.

B. The reason for the urgency was that certain people had slipped into the fellowship stealthily and were attempting to change the narrative.

- (2 Peter 2:1a–2 NIV) But there were also false prophets among the people, **just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies ... 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.**
- (Philippians 1:27 ESV) **Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, **with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.**
- (Galatians 2:4–5 ESV) Yet because of **false brothers secretly brought in**—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery— **5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**
- (1 Timothy 6:12–14 ESV) **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.** 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, 14 **to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### 3. Jude warns us of the severe judgment that comes to those who subvert the narrative, lose the plot and spread a false gospel.

**Not losing the plot...** Luke was careful to write an orderly account for us so that we may have certainty of our salvation. Now we have opportunity to stay true to the gospel narrative and not “lose the plot” so that we can share without a doubt the good news of God’s grace—the forgiveness of sins.

- (Jude 5–6 ESV) **Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land**

of Egypt, **afterward destroyed those who did not believe.** 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, **he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.**

### 4. Jude gives instructions to the beloved of God so that we might be prepared for our mercy mission in these last, evil days.

- (Jude 17–23 ESV) **But you must remember**, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” 19 **It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.** 20 But you, **beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,** 21 **keep yourselves in the love of God**, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. 22 **And have mercy on those who doubt;** 23 **save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear**, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

A. We must remember the prophecies and understand the world we live in so that we can make the most of our opportunity to do the will of God.

- (Ephesians 5:15–17 ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 **making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.** 17 Therefore do not be foolish, **but understand what the will of the Lord is.**
- (Hebrews 10:36–38 ESV) For you have need of endurance, **so that when you have done the will of God** you may receive what is promised. 37 For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 **but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.**”

B. We must build ourselves up in the most holy faith.

C. We must keep ourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

D. We must go out in mercy to those who doubt and to snatch some out of the fire.