

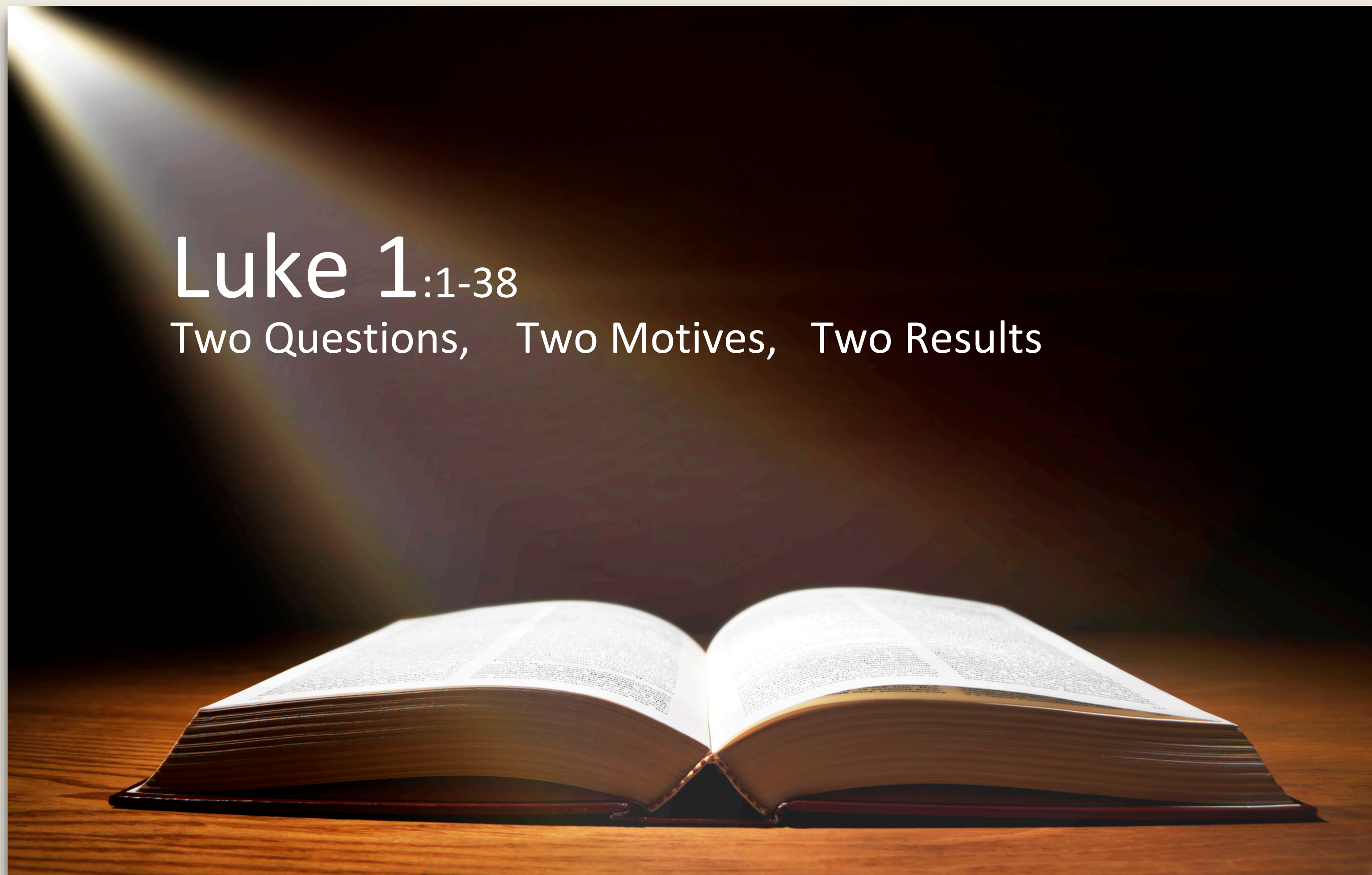


Chuck Ward, Ph.D.

The President's Class

Luke 1:1-38

Two Questions, Two Motives, Two Results



Luke 1:1-38

Two Questions, Two Motives, Two Results

Verses 1:1-4

Prologue, Intro., or Dedication
What Others Have Done
What Luke Will Do

Verses 1:5-25

Birth of John Foretold
Question #1 by Zachariah
Motive and Result of Q #1

Verses 1:26-38

Birth of Jesus Foretold
Question #2 by Mary
Motive and Result of Q #2

Scene #1

The Temple in Jerusalem

Scene #2

The Town of Nazareth

Luke 1:1-4

Prologue

Luke's Introduction

- ☑ Many have undertaken to “compile a narrative” of the Lord’s First Coming
- ☑ The accounts are by “eyewitnesses and ministers of the word”
- ☑ Luke will write an account based on his “having followed all things closely”
- ☑ Luke’s purpose is to “write an orderly account” or chronological account
- ☑ The Gospel will give Theophilus “certainty” about what he has been taught

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #1 at the Temple

“In the days of Herod, the king of Judea...”

- Herod the Great ruled Judea 34 to 4 BC.
- Herod began refurbishing (i.e, rebuilding) the post-exilic temple in 20 BC.
- Zechariah was a priest of the division of Abijah.
- He and his wife, Elizabeth, were righteous but childless.

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #1 at the Temple

“Now while he was serving as priest before God...”

- Zechariah was chosen to perform the morning or evening incense burning.
- The multitude was praying outside at the hour of incense:

“God of mercy, come into your holy sanctuary and receive with pleasure the offerings of your people.”

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #1 at the Temple

“And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord...”

- God has heard your prayers and will do what you have been asking.
- You will have a son and name him John, meaning “God is gracious.”
- John’s ministry will result in “exuberant joy.”

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #1 at the Temple

“And Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How shall I know this?’”

- John’s question is κατὰ τί γινώσονται τοῦτο.
- κατὰ τί
- “According to what?” “On what basis?”

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #1 at the Temple

“You will be silent and unable to speak...”

- The personal covenant name of God is Yahweh.

● יהוה:

- The name was never pronounced.
- There was one exception, but Zachariah forfeited the right to speak it.

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #1 at the Temple

יְהוָה

יְהוָה:
אֵל

The יְהוָה! bless you and keep you;

The יְהוָה! make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The יְהוָה! lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #2 in the Nazareth

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to... Nazareth.”

- John 1:45 Nathanael asked, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”
- Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Messiah.
- He will be called the Son of the Most High.
- He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #2 in the Nazareth

“And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

- John’s question is κατὰ τί γινώσονται τοῦτο.
- Mary’s question is Πῶς ἔσται τοῦτο.
- Πῶς
- “How will this work?” “How will this happen?”

Luke 1:5-25

Scene #2 in the Nazareth

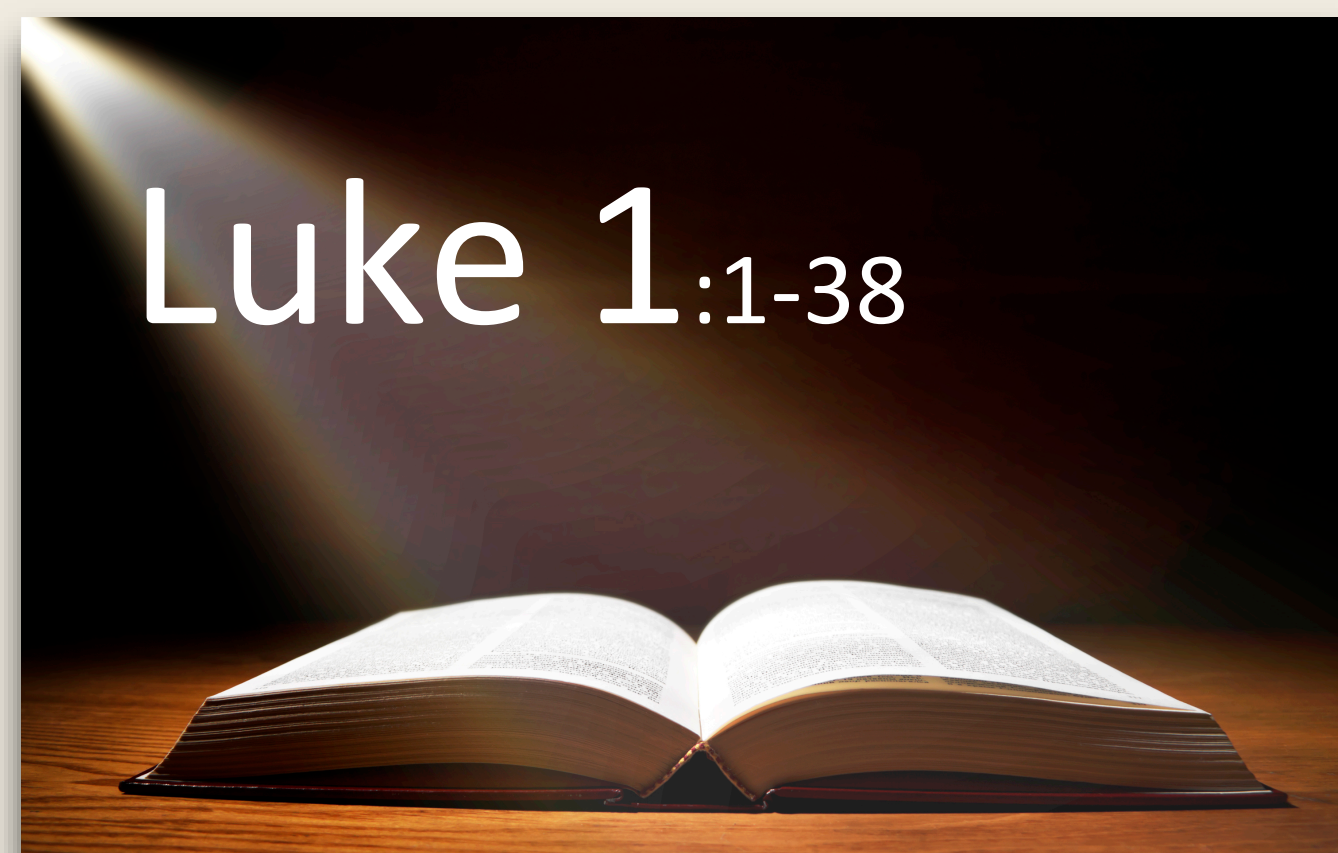
“And Mary said, “Behold I am the slave of the Lord;
Let it be to me according to your word.”

“Servant”

is an operational word. It tells us what a person does.

“Slave”

is a relational word. It tells us how one person is related to another.



Two Questions,

Two Motives,

Two Results

κατὰ τί How can this be?
Quest for Proof

Motive: Fear and Doubt

Results: Silence and no
opportunity to serve

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Remedy?

πῶς How will this be?
Quest for Understanding

Motive: Faith and Devotion

Results: Submission and the
opportunity to serve

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Luke 1:1-38

Two Questions,

Two Motives,

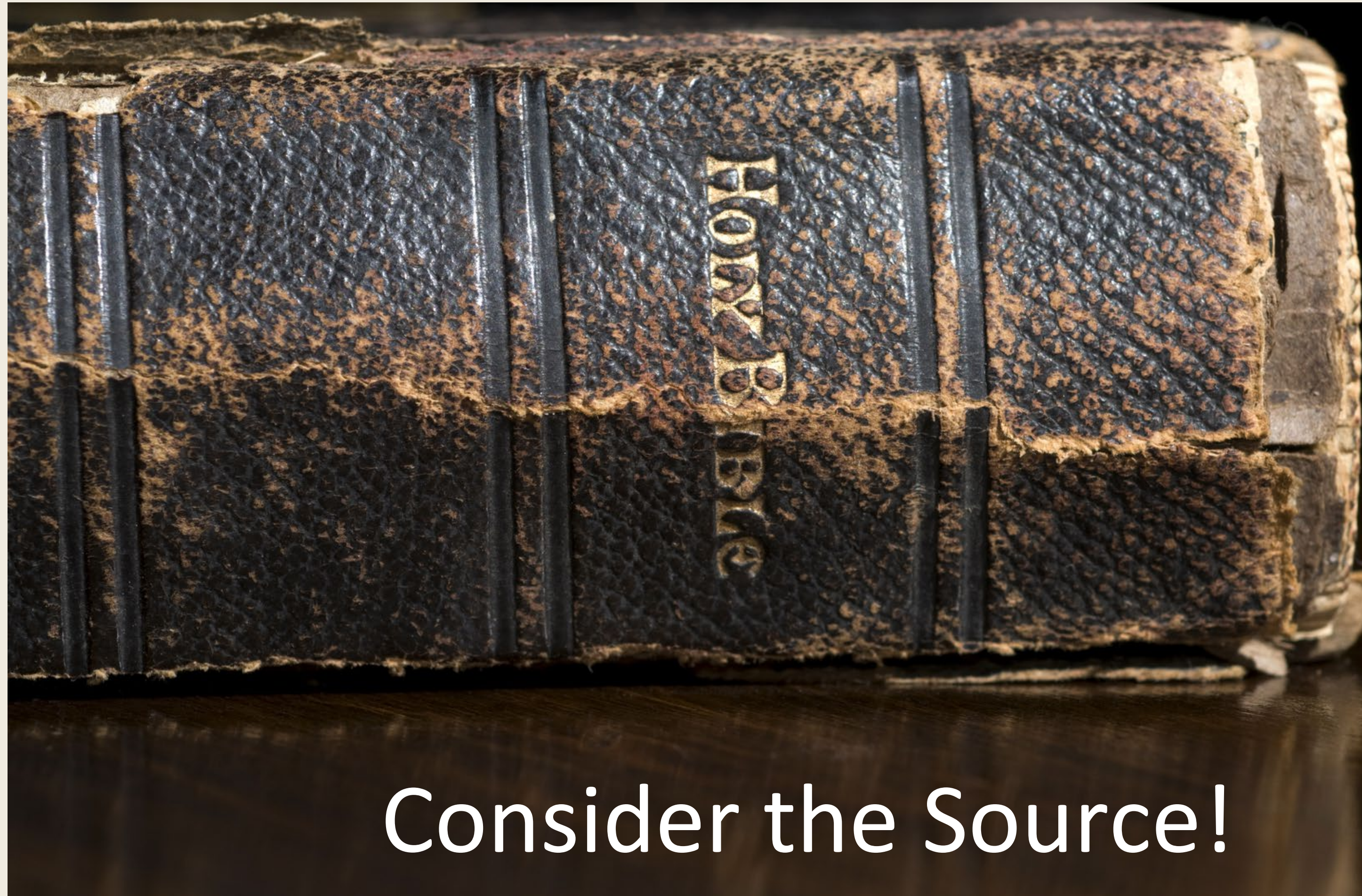
Two Results

And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and bring you this good news”

(Luke 1:19).



Luke 1:1-38



Consider the Source!
