

## The Revelation of the Messiah

In the first two chapters of Luke, characters acknowledge Jesus as Messiah, Son of God, and Lord. Lukan characters also speak of John the Baptist going before the Lord God, suggesting that Jesus might be the Lord in view, and connect Jesus with Old Testament YHWH passages. These features have made Luke 1–2 a key locus for discussions of Lukan Christology, raising the question of whether Luke presents Jesus as divine. However, they also create an apparent incongruity with the body of the Gospel. In Luke 3 and elsewhere, human characters are initially ignorant that Jesus is Messiah, Son of God, and Lord. Moreover, Jesus’ divinity – if Luke affirms it – does not seem to be recognized until after the resurrection. In this study, Caleb T. Friedeman advances a new model for understanding the christological relationship between Luke 1–2 and the rest of Luke-Acts, in which Luke presents these opening chapters as a christological mystery.

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The Christological Mystery of Luke 1-2 and Its Unveiling in Luke-Acts  
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# The Revelation of the Messiah

The Christological Mystery of Luke 1–2 and Its  
Unveiling in Luke-Acts

**CALEB T. FRIEDEMANN**

*Ohio Christian University*



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To my parents, Matt and Mary

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## AUTHOR'S NOTE

Unless otherwise noted, all translations of the Hebrew OT and Greek NT are from the NRSV, and all translations of the LXX and French, German, and Dutch works are the author's own.



## ABBREVIATIONS

AASF	Annales Academiae scientiarum fennicae
AB	Anchor Bible
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AnBib	Analecta biblica
AOTC	Apollos Old Testament Commentary
ArBib	The Aramaic Bible
ASNU	Acta seminarii neotestamentici upsaliensis
<i>BBR</i>	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
BDAG	Bauer, Walter, Frederick W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3rd ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
BibOr	Biblica et orientalia
<i>BIOSCS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i>
BMSEC	Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
<i>BSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca sacra</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BTNT	Biblical Theology of the New Testament
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
<i>CBR</i>	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>

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CCSL	Corpus Christianorum: Series latina
CEJL	Commentaries on Early Jewish Literature
ConBNT	Coniectanea Biblica: New Testament Series
DSD	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
DSSR	<i>The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader</i> . Edited by Donald W. Parry and Emanuel Tov. 6 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2004–05
DSSSE	<i>The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition</i> . Edited by Florentino García Martínez and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2000
Ebib	Études bibliques
EJL	Early Judaism and Its Literature
ETL	<i>Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses</i>
FBBS	Facet Books, Biblical Series
FCNTECW	Feminist Companion to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des alten und neuen Testaments
GCS	Die Griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament
Hermeneia	Hermeneia: A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HThKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
ICC	International Critical Commentary
ITC	International Theological Commentary
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JSJSup	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
L&N	Louw, Johannes P. and Eugene A. Nida, eds. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains</i> . 2nd ed. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989

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LBS	The Library of Biblical Studies
LNTS	Library of New Testament Studies
LXX	The Septuagint
MS(S)	manuscript(s)
MT	Masoretic Text
NA <sup>28</sup>	Nestle, Eberhard, Erwin Nestle, Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo N. Martini, and Bruce M. Metzger, eds. <i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> . 28th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2012
NAC	New American Commentary
NBBC	New Beacon Bible Commentary
NETS	<i>A New English Translation of the Septuagint and the Other Greek Translations Traditionally Included under That Title</i> . Edited by Albert Pietersma and Benjamin G. Wright. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
<i>NIDNTE</i>	<i>New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> . Edited by Moisés Silva. 5 vols. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014
NIGTC	The New International Greek Testament Commentary
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Supplements to Novum Testamentum
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NSBT	New Studies in Biblical Theology
NT	New Testament
NTC	New Testament Commentary
NTL	New Testament Library
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NTTS	New Testament Tools and Studies
OG	Old Greek
OT	Old Testament
ÖTK	Ökumenischer Taschenbuch-Kommentar
OTL	Old Testament Library
<i>OTP</i>	<i>The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> . Edited by James H. Charlesworth. 2 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1983–85

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OTPMNS	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha: More Noncanonical Scriptures</i> . Edited by Richard Bauckham, James R. Davila, and Alexander Panayotov. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013–
PiNTC	Pillar New Testament Commentary
PTA	Papyrologische Texte und Abhandlungen
PTS	Patristische Texte und Studien
PVTG	Pseudepigrapha Veteris Testamenti Graece
Rahlfs-Hanhart	Rahlfs, Alfred and Robert Hanhart, eds. <i>Septuaginta: Editio altera</i> . Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RBL	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>
RevExp	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
RI	Recherches intertestamentaires
RNTS	Reading the New Testament Series
SB	Sources bibliques
SBLEJL	Society of Biblical Literature Early Judaism and Its Literature
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBLSP	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SBLSymS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBLTT	Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations
SC	Sources chrétiennes
ScEccl	<i>Sciences ecclésiastiques</i>
SE	<i>Studia Evangelica</i>
SJT	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNT	Studien zum Neuen Testament
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SP	Sacra Pagina
SPNT	Studies on the Personalities of the New Testament
SS	Studies in Scripture
Str-B	Strack, Hermann L. and Paul Billerbeck. <i>Kommentar zum neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> . 6 vols. Munich: Beck, 1922–61
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti pseudepigrapha
TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Edited by Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964–76

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<i>TDOT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament.</i> Edited by G. Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren, and Heinz-Josef Fabry. Translated by J. T. Willis et al. 15 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974–2006
Th	Theodotion
THKNT	Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>TLOT</i>	<i>Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament.</i> Edited by Ernst Jenni, with assistance from Claus Westermann. Translated by Mark E. Biddle. 3 vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
TS	Texts and Studies
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
TTCS	Teach the Text Commentary Series
UBS <sup>5</sup>	Aland, Barbara, Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, and Bruce Metzger, eds. <i>The Greek New Testament</i> . 5th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2014
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
ZECNT	Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>

Abbreviations for ancient sources follow *Society of Biblical Literature Handbook of Style*, 2nd ed. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014.