

## 42 – Luke: The “Beloved Physician’s” Gospel

- Most scholars believe **Luke was a Gentile**; however, some believe he was of Jewish ancestry (*even though Paul distinguishes him from the Jews*). Either way, he had an excellent command of the language of Greek, was apparently a scholar and very interested in the details of any story he told. In today’s world Luke would be considered a scientist, always interested in examining the details. He wrote to the intellectual, whether Greek (Gentile) or Jew. His Gospel is the best constructed of all.
- Luke most likely **conferred greatly with Mary**, the mother of Jesus, for many of his details. Though Luke was not an eyewitness to the events he tells about, he relied on the testimony of those who were. He tells the story of people who saw and experienced what he writes about.
- The best guess for a time of writing of Luke’s Gospel is probably between **58 and 60 AD**. Luke’s language and references indicate that he **probably wrote primarily for a Gentile population**. Unlike the book of Matthew, there are very few allusions to the fact that Jesus fulfilled Jewish prophecies. This would not have been as important to a Gentile audience. This book covers the birth announcement of John the Baptist to Jesus’ resurrection.
- **Luke also wrote the book of Acts**, and was a frequent companion of the apostle Paul. In Acts he includes himself as being part of the action he tells about. He is called the “beloved physician” by Paul, who no doubt relied upon him on many occasion.
- Because of the great detail of Luke’s books, some skeptics have attempted to discredit Luke as an historian. However, try as they may, none have been able to do so. In fact, some have even come to be believers as a result of these attempts, and seeing the great accuracy of Luke’s reports. An example of this is Sir William Ramsay who started out to discredit Luke, and ended up an ardent believer, writing great books on Paul and the churches of Asia Minor.
- Luke’s gospel is the **most complete of all** the historical narratives. His goal was to do this while also showing that Jesus is the perfect Man (and perfect God), the Savior of the entire world. He is God manifest in the flesh (incarnation). Luke uses the “scientific approach” to examine Jesus of Nazareth. His findings show that Jesus is God in the flesh. The Greeks were known for their pursuit of the “perfect man.” Luke shows that he found him, in the person of Jesus Christ. No one else will come close.



### Highlights

<b>Announcements and Birth of John</b> (Ch 1)	Purpose of Gospel, 1:1-4; Gabriel announces birth of John, 1:5-25; Gabriel announces virgin Birth of Jesus, 1:26-38; Mary Visits Elisabeth, 1:39-56 ; Birth of John, 1:57-80
<b>Jesus Birth and early days</b> (Ch 2-3)	Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, 2:1-7; reception of Jesus; angels announce His birth to shepherds; shepherds visit stable, 2:8-20; circumcision of Jesus and purification of Mary, 2:21-24; Simeon sees the Messiah, 2:25-35; Anna sees the Messiah, return to Nazareth, 2:36-40; visit of Jesus (age 12) and family to Jerusalem, 2:41-52 Ministry of John, 3:1-20; baptism of Jesus, 3:21-22; genealogy of Mary, 3:23-38
<b>Testing, Rejection</b> (Ch 4)	Temptation, 4:1-13; Jesus returns to Galilee and Nazareth; Rejected by His Hometown, 4:14-30; Jesus moves headquarters to Capernaum; continues His ministry, 4:31-44
<b>Ministry in Galilee</b> (Ch 5-9)	Jesus calls disciples 2nd time, cleanses lepers, heals man/palsy, calls Matthew, parables on garment and wine skins, <b>Ch 5</b> ; defends disciples for plucking grain on Sabbath, heals paralyzed man on Sabbath, chooses the 12, Sermon on the plain, <b>Ch 6</b> ; heals centurion's servant, raises son of widow of Nain, commends John the Baptist, dinner at Pharisee's house, parable of two debtors, <b>Ch 7</b> ; parables: sower, lighted candle, personal relationships, stills storm, casts out demons at Gadara, heals woman with issue of blood, raises Jairus' daughter, <b>Ch 8</b> ; commissions and sends 12, feeds 5000, announces death and resurrection, transfigured, casts out demons, sets face toward Jerusalem, test for discipleship, Ch 9

<b>Ministry on the Way to Jerusalem</b> (Ch 10-18)	Jesus sends the 70, pronounces judgment on Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, parable of Good Samaritan, visits Mary and Martha, <b>Ch 10</b> ; Jesus teaches disciples to pray, parables of the persistent friend and a Good Father, accused of casting out demons by Beelzebub, parables—unclean spirit leaving a man, sign of Jonah, lighted candle, denounces Pharisees, <b>Ch 11</b> ; warns of leaven of Pharisees, parables of rich fool, return from wedding, testing of servants in light of coming of Christ, states He is a divider of men, <b>Ch 12</b> ; Teaches men not to judge but repent, parable of fig tree, heals woman with infirmity, parables of mustard seed and leaven, continues to teach as He goes toward Jerusalem, weeps over Jerusalem, <b>Ch 13</b> ; Goes to dinner at home of Pharisee, parables of impolite guests, the Great Supper, building a tower, King going to war, salt that loses worth, <b>Ch 14</b> ; parables of lost sheep, lost coin, prodigal son, <b>Ch 15</b> ; parable of unjust steward, answers covetous Pharisees, speaks on divorce, Rich Man and Lazarus, <b>Ch 16</b> ; Jesus instructs disciples on forgiveness, faithful service, heals 10 lepers, speaks on spiritual nature of Kingdom and His coming again, <b>Ch 17</b> ; two parables on prayer, blesses little children, confronts rich young ruler with 5 of Ten Commandments, heals blind man on entering Jericho, <b>Ch 18</b>
<b>Ministry in Jericho and Jerusalem</b> (Ch 19-21)	Enters Jericho and home of Zacchaeus, conversion of Zacchaeus, parable of Ten Pounds, enters Jerusalem, weeps over City, cleanses Temple, <b>Ch 19</b> ; Jesus' authority challenged, parable of vineyard, questioned about paying tribute to Caesar, silences Sadducees about resurrection, questions Scribes, <b>Ch 20</b> ; how people give, commends widow, Olivet Discourse (time of end), <b>Ch 21</b>
<b>Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, Burial</b> (Ch 22-23)	Judas plots with chief priests to betray Jesus, plans for Passover, Lord's Supper, announces His betrayal and Peter's denial, warns disciples of future, goes to Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, arrested and led to High Priest's house, denied by Peter, mocked, beaten, brought Before Sanhedrin, <b>Ch 22</b> ; Jesus brought before Pilate and Herod, Barabbas released, Jesus foretells destruction of Jerusalem and prays for His enemies, Jesus crucified, mocked by rulers, soldiers, one thief, other thief turns to Jesus, Jesus dies, placed in new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, <b>Ch 23</b>
<b>Resurrection and Ascension</b> (Ch 24)	Jesus raised, 24:1-12; road to Emmaus, reveals Himself to two disciples, 24:13-34; goes to disciples, reveals Himself to the 11, commission to disciples, 24:35-48, promises to send Holy Spirit, ascends to Heaven, 24:49-53

- **Luke concentrates on the humanity of Jesus.** Paul said *“And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.* (1 Corinthians 15:45-49). Jesus is the heavenly “man.” He is the perfect Man, and is the perfect God. John is the one who concentrated on the divinity of Jesus. Here in Luke’s gospel, it is His humanity that is the focal point. In order to pay the price (and be an acceptable sacrifice) for all mankind’s sins, Jesus had to be the perfect man.
- While Luke is considered one of the “synoptic” gospels (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, because they are very similar in construction and content*) **Luke contains many things not found in the other gospels**, because of his pursuit of the details. Luke gives us:
  - The complete “Christmas” story, which gave rise to many of our Christmas songs. His is the longest and most detailed account of the virgin birth of Jesus.
  - 20 miracles, 6 of which are only found in Luke
  - 23 parables, 18 only found here (i.e., the Prodigal Son, and the Good Samaritan)
  - The walk to Emmaus, showing Jesus’ humanness even after the resurrection
  - More medical terms than even Hippocrates, considered the “father of medicine”
  - Luke has a greater focus on repentance, forgiveness, personal joy and prayer than the other Gospels.