

LUKE

Author: Luke

Date: approx. 60 A. D.

This is the most comprehensive of the four Gospels. Luke presents Jesus' birth, ancestry, and early life before moving into His ministry, death, and resurrection. His gospel focuses on the humanity of Jesus: The Divine Son of God is also the Son of Man. Luke gives the most complete account of Christ's ancestry, birth, and development. As a man, He felt the emotions and the physical needs and pains we experience. He was tempted, yet He never sinned. He was denied by His closest friends, arrested by His enemies, and rejected by the very people He came to save. Luke gives more attention to the physical aspects Christ's life than any of the other Gospels.

Luke, a physician and historian, is traditionally thought to be the only Gentile author of a New Testament book and probably of the whole Bible. He was a close friend and companion of the apostle Paul who refers to Luke as "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). Luke also wrote the book of Acts and the two books actually go together. In size, Luke-Acts combined are larger than all Paul's epistles combined.

Luke shows Jesus is not only the Jewish Messiah, but the Savior of the Gentiles as well (2:32; 24:27). Luke pays particular attention to Jesus' ministry to the poor, the outcasts and to women. He spends more time on prayer and angels than the other Gospels and is the only Gospel to tell of the annunciation to Zechariah and Mary, the songs of Elizabeth and Mary, and many details concerning the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. He is also the only one to tell us about Zacchaeus, the prodigal son, the Good Samaritan, the penitent tax collector, and the penitent thief on the Cross. Luke puts a special emphasis on prayer.

Theme: Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, is the Savior of the whole world.

Key verse: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (19:10).

Outline

- I. Introduction of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man (1:1 – 4:13)
 - A. Purpose of Luke's Gospel (1:1-4)
 - B. Foretelling the Births of John the Baptist and Jesus (1:5-56)
 - C. Events Accompanying the Birth of Jesus (1:57 – 2:38)
 - D. Events of Jesus' Childhood (2:39 -52)
 - E. Events Preceding Jesus' Ministry (3:1 – 4:13)
- II. The Ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man (4:14 – 9:50)
 - A. Presentation of Jesus (4:14-30)
 - B. Demonstration of Jesus' Power and Authority (4:31 – 5:28)
 - C. Instruction of Jesus to the Pharisees and to His Disciples (5:29 – 6:49)
 - D. Activities of Jesus' Ministry (7:1 – 9:50)
- III. The Rejection of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man (9:51 – 19:27)
 - A. Opposition to Jesus Increases (9:51 – 11:54)
 - B. Jesus' Instruction in View of His Rejection (12:1 – 19:27)
- IV. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man (19:28 – 24:53)
 - A. The Last Week of Christ (19:28 – 23:56)
 - B. The Authentication of Jesus as the Christ (24:1-53).