



"Jesus: The Beginning of His Story"

Luke 1
November 27, 2022

The Gospel of Luke

- Who wrote it? Luke, a Christian, a **physician**, and a first-rate **researcher** who longed to see people come to Jesus for salvation.
- Luke is the only **Gentile** (non-Jewish) writer in the New Testament.
- Why did he write it? So that his readers would understand that the gospel is for **all**, both Jews and Gentiles alike, since Jesus is the promised one of God as prophesied in the OT and as **shown** through God's saving activity in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- A more personal reason for the book is tied up in a desire for a friend named Theophilus to be **convinced** of who Jesus is and what He did.
- Luke emphasizes that the Gospel is for everyone, including the **outcasts!** [Luke 15; Luke 19; the repentant thief on the cross]
- Luke gives us stories no other Gospel contains – Luke 1 & 2 for example.
- He is a **missionary** – traveling with the Apostle Paul, taking the Gospel to all who will receive it. Luke is in the "we" passages of Acts and the sole friend with Paul during his final imprisonment and presumably at his **death** [2 Timothy 4:11]
- When was the book written? It is the 1st volume of a 2-volume set. Since Acts concludes with Paul still alive (he died in about AD 64), Luke would clearly pre-date Acts. So, a date of AD 60-62 is a reasonable assumption.
- Luke is the longest book of the New Testament, and the twelfth longest book of the entire Bible, with **19,482** Greek words.

THE BIG IDEA: The Son of God came to the world to be our **Savior**. Luke tells us the very personal story of who Jesus is, what He said, and what He did. Every story has a beginning. Remember Christ is eternal and has always been, but there was a point in history when He **came** to us, to make plain who God is and to do what is necessary for us to be **reconciled** to God.

Luke 1:1–4 (ESV)

1 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.

Acts 1:1 (ESV) "In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,"

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW:

- All of Scripture can be **trusted** and **believed**. Luke happens to mention his desire for his friend to have certainty about the stories and words of Jesus. [Psalm 119:151; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-18]
- Do not be tempted by or confused by the "other gospels" (the ones not a part of the Bible) that were written. The Holy Spirit "**breathed**" God's Word – this is what it means to say Scripture is inspired. [2 Timothy 3:16] Authors of Scripture were "**carried along**" by the Holy Spirit. Not all who wrote in the past or in the present about Jesus are speaking truth. God's Word (the Bible) is **true** and **trustworthy**. Other books are not. [2 Peter 1:19-21]
- God uses His inspired Word to bring people to **salvation**.
Luke 1:3 "most excellent Theophilus"
Acts 1:1 "O Theophilus"
Romans 1:16
- You don't have to live with constant **doubts** about Jesus or your salvation. The Lord wants you be sure of both!
→ "... that you have certainty..." [Luke 1:4]
→ "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."
[1 John 5:13]

"God is not silent. It is the nature of God to **speak**. The second person of the Holy Trinity is called "The Word." The Bible is the inevitable outcome of God's continuous speech.

It is the infallible declaration of His **mind**."

– A. W. Tozer
