

About Luke and his Gospel

We can infer, from the evidence of the Book of Acts and the third gospel, that the author was someone who was steeped in scripture, in the Septuagint (the ancient Greek translation of the Jewish scriptures), and who was aware of Hellenistic (Greek) literary patterns.

The name Luke is only mentioned three times in the New Testament. From these three occurrences, it is evident that Luke was a physician ([Col 4:14](#)) and a companion of Paul ([2 Tim 4:11](#); [Philem 1:24](#)). As a physician he would be very conversant with the Greek language. It is more than likely that Luke was a Gentile, but he was not necessarily a Greek. Not only did Luke compose the longest Gospel, but he also wrote more than any other New Testament writer.

The Gospel according to Luke exhibits several differences from the other Synoptic Gospels (Matthew and Mark). For instance, Luke is the only Gospel to have a sequel, the Acts of the Apostles. Another difference between Luke and the other Synoptics is the prologue ([1:1-4](#)). Luke's prologue enables readers to better understand the purpose of the Gospel, and it also makes the destination clear. Unfortunately, and in a similar fashion to the other Synoptics, the author does not directly identify himself within the text. On the other hand there is enough internal and external evidence to conclude that it was written by Luke the physician. In certain sections of Acts, the author uses the first person plural in the narrative ([Acts 16:10-17](#); [20:5-15](#); [21:1-8](#); [27:1-28:16](#)). These are usually referred to as the we-sections and would indicate that the author of Acts accompanied Paul at these times. Luke is the only one that would fit into this mould according to Paul's epistles.

As a close friend and travelling companion of Paul, he could interview other disciples and their peers, he had access to historical accounts and he was an eye witness to the growth of the early church.

The Gospel according to Luke was probably the last Synoptic Gospel to be written, probably around 60AD. It is generally agreed that Luke-Acts was not written in Palestine, but the true location is not known.

Both the purpose of the Gospel and its audience can be found in the prologue ([1:1-4](#)). Luke first mentions that many others before him have made an account of the things that have been fulfilled as they were handed down from the first generation. He also says that he cautiously examined everything from the beginning and this led him to write an organized account to Theophilus so that he might know the certainty of what he has been taught. A widely accepted theory is that Theophilus was Luke's patron and helped him to publish Luke-Acts.

Luke's purpose in writing the Gospel has been debated. Some suggest that Luke set out to make a case for Christianity as not being a threat to the Roman Empire. Others make the proposition that Luke-Acts was written to reassure those questioning Jesus' second coming because of its delay. Many believe that Luke was not writing to Theophilus exclusively, but that the two-volume work was intended to be distributed for ecclesiastical purposes. There is also the view, which seems to be growing in popularity, that Luke-Acts was specifically designed to aid Paul in his trial before Caesar.

The result is an accurate record of the life of Christ and his presentation as the perfect human and Saviour.

The idea of salvation is prevalent in Luke's Gospel. The words "salvation/deliverance" and "salvation/saving power" are used by Luke, but are not found in Matthew and Mark. Luke also demonstrates Jesus as being sympathetic towards Samaritans and Gentiles. Other themes include peace, the plan of God, emphases on individuals, importance of women, children, the poor, the disreputable, the passion, prayer and praise.

The structure of Luke's Gospel begins with the prologue (1:1-4), followed by the births of John the Baptist and Jesus (1:5-2:52).

Luke then covers John's ministry and the preparation of Jesus' ministry (3:1-4:13).

He then gives account of Jesus' Galilean ministry (4:14-9:50), and his journey to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27). Jesus' time in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53) can be divided up into

his ministry (19:28-21:38), the passion (22:1-23:56), and his resurrection and ascension (24:1-53).

LUKE: SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Birth and Preparation of Jesus

- 1: 1 - 4 Introduction (prologue)
- 5 – 25 An Angel promises the Birth of John to Zechariah
- 26 – 38 An Angel promises the Birth of Jesus to Mary
- 39 – 56 Mary visits Elizabeth
- 57 – 80 John the Baptist is Born
- 2: 1 – 7 Jesus is Born in Bethlehem
- 8 – 20 Shepherds visit Jesus
- 21 – 40 Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple
- 41 – 42 Jesus speaks with the Religious Teachers
- 3: 1 – 18 John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus
- 19 – 20 Herod puts John in Prison
- 21 - 22 John Baptises Jesus
- 23 – 37 The Ancestors of Jesus
- 4: 1 – 13 Satan Tempts Jesus in the Desert

Message and Ministry of Jesus

a. Jesus' ministry in Galilee

- 14 – 15 Jesus preaches in Galilee
- 16 – 30 Jesus is rejected at Nazareth
- 31 – 37 Jesus Teaches with Great Authority
- 38 – 41 Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law and Many Others
- 42 – 44 Jesus Preaches throughout Galilee
- 5: 1 – 11 Jesus Provides a Miraculous Catch of Fish
- 12 – 16 Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy
- 17 – 26 Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man
- 27 – 32 Jesus Eats with Sinners at Matthew's House
- 33 - 39 Religious Leaders Ask Jesus about Fasting

6: 1 – 5 The Disciples Pick Wheat on the Sabbath
6 – 11 Jesus Heals a Man's Hand on the Sabbath
12 – 16 Jesus Selects the Twelve Disciples
17 – 26 Jesus Gives the Beatitudes
27 – 36 Jesus Teaches about Loving Enemies
37 – 42 Jesus Teaches about Criticising Others
43 – 45 Jesus Teaches about Fruit in People's Lives
46 – 49 Jesus Teaches about Those Who Build Houses on Rock and Sand

7: 1 – 10 A Roman Centurion Demonstrates Faith
11 – 17 Jesus Raises a Widow's Son from the Dead
18 – 35 Jesus Eases John's Doubt
36 – 50 A Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet

8: 1 – 3 Women Accompany Jesus and the Disciples
4 – 8 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Four Soils
9 – 18 Jesus Explains the Parable of the Four Soils
19 – 21 Jesus Describes His True Family
22 – 25 Jesus Calms the Storm
26 – 39 Jesus Sends the FDemons into a Herd of Pigs
40 – 56 Jesus Heals a Bleeding Woman and Restores a Girl to Life

9: 1 – 6 Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Disciples
7 – 9 Herod Kills John the Baptist
10 – 17 Jesus Feeds Five Thousand
18 – 20 Peter Says Jesus is the Messiah
21 – 27 Jesus Predicts His Death the First Time
28 – 36 Jesus is Transfigured on the Mountain
37 – 43 Jesus heals a Demon-Possessed Boy
43 – 45 Jesus Predicts His Death the Second Time
46 – 48 The Disciples Argue about Who Would Be the Greatest
49 – 50 The Disciples Forbid Another to Use Jesus' Name

b. Jesus' ministry on the way to Jerusalem

50 – 62 Jesus teaches about the Cost of Following Him

10: 1 - 16 Jesus sends out 72 Messengers

17 – 24 The 72 Messengers Return

25 – 37 Jesus Tells the parable of the Good Samaritan

38 – 41 Jesus Visits Mary and Martha

11: 1 – 13 Jesus Teaches His Disciples about Prayer

14 – 28 Jesus Answers Hostile Accusations

29 – 32 Jesus Warns against Unbelief

33 – 36 Jesus Teaches about the Light Within

37 – 54 Jesus Criticises the religious Leaders

12: 1 – 12 Jesus Speaks against Hypocrisy

13 – 21 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Rich Fool

22 – 34 Jesus Warns about Worry

35 – 48 Jesus Warns about Preparing for His Coming

49 – 53 Jesus Warns about Coming Division

54 – 59 Jesus warns about the Future Crisis

13: 1 - 9 Jesus Calls the People to Repent

10 – 17 Jesus Heals the Crippled Woman

18 – 21 Jesus Teaches about the Kingdom of God

22 – 30 Jesus Teaches about Entering the Kingdom

31 – 35 Jesus grieves over Jerusalem

14: 1 – 6 Jesus Heals a Man with Dropsy

7 – 14 Jesus Teaches about Seeking Honour

15 – 24 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Great Feast

25 – 35 Jesus Teaches about the Cost of Being a Disciple

- 15: 1 – 7 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Sheep
 8 – 10 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Coin
 11 – 32 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son
- 16: 1 – 18 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Shrewd Manager
 19 – 31 Jesus Tells about the Rich Man and the Beggar
- 17: 1 - 10 Jesus Tells about Forgiveness and Faith
 11 – 19 Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy
 20 – 37 Jesus teaches about the Coming of the Kingdom of God
- 18: 1 – 8 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Persistent Widow
 9 – 14 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Two Men Who Prayed
 15 – 17 Jesus Blesses Little Children
 18 – 30 Jesus Speaks to the Rich Young Man
 31 – 34 Jesus Predicts His Death the Third Time
 35 – 43 Jesus heals a Blind Beggar
- 19: 1 – 10 Jesus Brings Salvation to Zacchaeus' Home
 11 – 27 Jesus Tells the Parable of the King's Servants
- Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem**
- 28 – 44 Jesus Rides into Jerusalem on a Donkey
 45 – 48 Jesus Clears the Temple Again
- 20: 1 – 8 Religious Leaders Challenge Jesus' Authority
 9 – 19 Jesus Tells the Parable of the Wicked Tenants
 20 – 26 Religious Leaders Question Jesus about Paying Taxes
 27 – 40 Religious Leaders Question Jesus about the Resurrection
 41 – 44 Religious Leaders Cannot Answer Jesus' Question
 45 – 47 Jesus Warns against the Religious Leaders
- 21: 1 – 4 A Poor Woman Gives All She Has

5 – 24 Jesus Tells About the Future

25 – 33 Jesus Tells about His Return

34 – 38 Jesus Tells about Remaining Watchful

Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Saviour

22: 1 – 6 Religious Leaders Plot to Kill Jesus and Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

7 – 13 Disciples Prepare for the Passover

14 – 30 Jesus and the Disciples Have the Last Supper

31 – 38 Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

39 – 46 Jesus Agonises in the Garden

47 – 53 Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested

54 – 65 Peter Denies Knowing Jesus

66 – 71 The Council of Religious Leaders Condemns Jesus

23: 1 – 5 Jesus Stands Trial before Pilate

6 – 12 Jesus Stands Trial before Herod

13 – 25 Pilate Hands Jesus Over to Be Crucified

26 – 31 Jesus is Led Away to Be Crucified

32 – 43 Jesus is Place on the Cross

44 – 49 Jesus Dies on the Cross

51 – 56 Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

24: 1 – 12 Jesus Rises from the Dead

13 – 35 Jesus Appears to Two Believers Travelling on the Road

36 – 43 Jesus Appears to the Disciples Behind Locked Doors

44 – 49 Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Jerusalem

50 – 53 Jesus Ascends into Heaven