
LUKE 1-9

Who is the writer?

- What we know comes from the early church writers and their opinions
- The writer was “Luke” and we don’t really know very much about him.
- Luke was probably a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-14) and at least a Hellenistic Jew
- Luke was a physician and one of Paul’s journey companions (Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1—28:16; Col. 4:14; Phile. 24; 2 Tim. 4:11)
 - He actually uses more medical terminology than Hippocrates the father of medicine.
- Luke wrote both Luke and Acts (27% of the New Testament)

About the book

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^[a] among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who, from the first, were eyewitnesses and servants of the Word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- A gospel written to a man named Theophilus.
 - Theophilus is a Greek/Western thinker and so he wants the facts behind the awesomeness of the gospel he has been taught and seen.
- The book is based on research rather than an eye witness account.
- The most linear of the gospels with the most references to the historical events in Jesus’ world.
- The most details about Jesus’ life
- Longest book in the NT
- Lots of chiasms in Luke and Acts – Nearly? every verse
- 4 sections of the book
 - Chapters 1-2 – Introduction to John the Baptist and Jesus
 - Chapters 3-9 – Jesus doing missional work in his home region of Galilee
 - End of 9 to Middle of 19 – Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem
 - Chapters 19-24 – Jesus in Jerusalem – teaching, betrayal, execution, resurrection

Chapters 1-2 – Introduction to John the Baptist and Jesus

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 - Explanatory Preface

- Birth Announcement of John the Baptist
 - Zechariah and Elizabeth are descendants of Aaron (priest families within Levi)
 - They are both righteous in the sight of God – following all the commandments blamelessly.
 - Zechariah is burning incense in the Holy Place – a once in a lifetime opportunity
 - Gabriel appears before him, announces the birth of a son to his barren wife, tells him to name the baby John, tells him that John will prepare the people for the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah
 - Zechariah expresses doubt and is struck dumb until the birth.
- Birth Announcement of Jesus the Messiah
 - 6 months later in Nazareth, Gabriel is sent to a virgin girl named Mary, who is engaged to Joseph - a descendant of King David
 - Gabriel announces the birth of a son to this virgin girl, tells her to name the baby Jesus, and tells her that

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.

- Gabriel tells Mary that Elizabeth is pregnant too even though she was barren.
- Mary's response:

Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word.

- Mary and Elizabeth
 - Mary rushes to Elizabeth and, upon seeing Mary, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaims

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! And who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

- Mary's Hymn of Praise
 - God has blessed me
 - God is mighty
 - God is merciful
 - God helps the lowly, hungry, and poor
 - God is now having mercy on Israel and keeping His promise to Abraham and his descendants
- The Birth of John
 - John is born and is circumcised. They name him John and Zechariah is able to talk again.

- The miracle was talked about “throughout the entire hill country of Judea”. “What will this child be??”
 - Zechariah’s Praise and Prediction
 - God is raising up someone from the house of David to save Israel
 - John will go before this savior and prepare the people
 - God’s mercy will give light to those who sit in darkness and guide our feet in the way of peace
 - Afterward: John became strong in spirit and was in the wilderness until he started his ministry.
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 - The Census and the Birth of Jesus
 - Census called for by Caesar Augustus
 - Joseph takes Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem (David’s city)
 - Mary gives birth to a son and lays him in a manger because there is no room in the inn or guestroom (Bethlehem is small so there wouldn’t be a whole lot of room in the city or in their relative’s house to begin with)
 - The Shepherds’ Visit
 - (Way bigger footprint than the actual birth)
 - Shepherd’s doing their night shepherding
 - Angels appear and announce the birth of the Messiah nearby
 - Angels praise God
 - Shepherds go and see the baby and tell everyone the story and praise God
 - Jesus is circumcised and named
 - Jesus’ Presentation at the Temple
 - Present Jesus to the temple as the first born (law of Moses) when 40 days old
 - Pair of doves means they were poor
 - The Prophecy of Simeon
 - Simeon was a righteous man and the Holy Spirit promised he wouldn’t die before seeing the Messiah
 - Simeon takes baby Jesus in his arms and blesses God and the parents.
 - Simeon’s prophecy to Mary:

“Listen carefully: This child is destined to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be rejected. Indeed, as a result of him the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul as well!”

- The Testimony of Anna
 - Then Anna (103 y/o widow, never leaves the temple) comes and speaks about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jesus
 - Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth

- Jesus in the Temple
 - Jesus' parents go to Jerusalem every year for the Feast of the Passover
 - At 12 y/o, Jesus stays behind in the temple

...sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Jesus were astonished at his understanding and his answers.

- Parents frantically look for him for 3 days.

Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?

- Jesus increases in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with people.

Chapters 3-9 – Jesus doing missional work in his home region of Galilee

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- The Ministry of John the Baptist
 - The word of God comes upon John and he goes into all the region around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of repentance.
 - Don't think you are safe just because you are Abraham's children
 - Share your extra clothes and food with the people around you
 - Tax collectors – don't collect more than required
 - Soldiers – don't use violence or false accusations to get more money
 - Is John the Messiah? No, I am not worthy and only baptize with water. He is more powerful and will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.
 - Herod locks John up for speaking against Herod's relationship with his brother's wife and all the evil deeds he'd done.
- The Baptism of Jesus
 - The Trinity

Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. And while he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight."

- The Genealogy of Jesus
 - Jesus starts his ministry at 30 years old
 - Genealogy of Jesus through Joseph, David, Abraham, and Adam to God.
 - A "legal genealogy" through the legal father vs the "physical genealogy" through the mother in Matthew
 - Going all the way to Adam (Abraham in Matthew) shows that Jesus is of the human lineage, not just the Jewish lineage.

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- The Temptation of Jesus
 - Tempting his hunger or flesh to break his fast/break his discipline
 - Tempting him with power to rule the world
 - Tempting his pride or to prove that he really was the Messiah
 - Jesus responds with scripture
- The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry in Galilee
 - Teaching in the synagogues
- Rejection at Nazareth
 - Stood up to read the scripture (was probably his family's turn)
 - Read Isaiah's prophecy about himself
 - Sat down to expound on the reading and everyone is looking at him. Declared: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled even as you heard it being read."

All were speaking well of him, and were amazed at the gracious words coming out of his mouth. They said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

Jesus said to them, "No doubt you will quote to me the proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself!' (or Prove it to us!) and say, 'What we have heard that you did in Capernaum, do here in your hometown too.'" And he added, "I tell you the truth, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown." (Then gives a few examples)

When they heard this, all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up... and forced him to the brow of the hill, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.

- Nazarene's wanted to kill him for being a false prophet because he wouldn't prove the prophecy was about himself.
- Ministry in Capernaum
 - Went to Capernaum and spoke with authority
 - Drives out demons by rebuking and commanding them demonstrating his authority over demons or unclean spirits.
 - Healed Simon's (Peter's) mother-in-law demonstrating his authority over sickness.
 - Gets famous. Heals everyone that comes to him.
 - Drives out demons, but silences them because they know he's the Messiah. He's ok with being locally famous. Not ready to be nationally famous.

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- The Call of the Disciples
 - Jesus preaching from a boat because of the crowds
 - Jesus commands them to fish again after a fishless night. Lots of fish!
 - Jesus calls Simon, James, and John to drop their fishing business and follow him to fish for people.
- Healing a Leper
 - Jesus heals a leper and gets more famous.

- Large crowds gather near him to hear him and to be healed.
 - ***Jesus withdrew frequently into the wilderness and prayed.***
- Healing and Forgiving a Paralytic
 - Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting nearby Jesus teaching (they came from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem)
 - Paralytic man's friends lower him to Jesus through the roof
 - Jesus forgives his sins and then heals the paralytic to show the Pharisees that he (the Son of Man) had authority on earth to forgive sins.
- The Call of Levi; Eating with Sinners
 - Calls Levi to drop his tax collecting business and follow him.
 - Attended a banquet with Levi and his friends (other tax collectors)
 - Pharisees complain about associating with sinners.
 - ***"Those who are well don't need a physician. I have not come to call the righteous but the sinners to repentance"***
- The Superiority of the New
 - Pharisees complain about Jesus' disciples not fasting.

"You cannot make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? But those days are coming, and when the bridegroom is taken from them, at that time they will fast."

- Parable: Can't tear a new garment to patch an old one. The new one is ruined and the patch doesn't match the old one. What Jesus is bringing is so new that applying the old rules to it doesn't make sense.

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- Lord of the Sabbath
 - Pharisees complain about Jesus' disciples picking wheat in the field they are traveling through and eating it.
 - Jesus: David ate the sacred bread from the temple, right? The Son of Man (ie, me) is lord of the Sabbath.
- Healing a Withered Hand
 - Pharisees watching closely to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath.
 - He knows their thoughts: Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil, to save a life or to destroy it?
 - He heals the man.
 - Pharisees outraged (Jesus is breaking the law by "working")
- Choosing the Twelve Apostles
 - Jesus goes to the mountain and prays to God all night.
 - Jesus chooses 12 of his disciples to be apostles.
- The Sermon on the Plain
 - Jesus goes down the mountain to a large number of disciples and people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon

- Parallel, possibly summarized version of the Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount".
 - Lots of teaching
 - You are blessed when you are poor, hungry, weeping, and when people hate you due to the Son of Man – You will be satisfied and rewarded.
 - Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you. Because God is kind and merciful to everyone.
- Do Not Judge Others
 - "Do not judge and you will not be judged" – Judging people's worth
 - Don't condemn people, but forgive people
 - Be generous – the measure you use will be the measure you receive.
 - Remove the plank in your own eye before the speck in your brother's eye
 - A good heart produces good fruit (good works, good words)
 - Why call me Lord if you don't do what I tell you?
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- Healing the Centurion's Slave
 - Centurion's slave is sick almost to death
 - Centurion tells Jesus not to come, but to just speak the word and his slave will be healed.
 - Jesus is amazed at the Centurion's faith.
- Raising a Widow's Son
 - Jesus raises a widow's dead son back to life in the middle of the funeral.
 - Everyone glorifies God.
 - Jesus gets more famous
- Jesus and John the Baptist
 - John questions Jesus: Are you the Messiah?
 - Jesus answers: "Go tell John what you have seen and heard: The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news proclaimed to them. Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."
 - Jesus tells the crowd that John is the greatest human ever, yet the least in God's kingdom is greater than John.
 - Jesus rebukes the people who do not see John and Jesus for who they really are, but rather make excuses.
- Jesus' Anointing
 - Jesus has dinner with a Pharisee
 - A woman (a sinner) cleans Jesus' feet with her tears and hair
 - The Pharisee looks down on the woman and thinks to himself that if Jesus was a prophet he would know what kind of woman was touching him.
 - Jesus tells the parable of a creditor who forgives his debtors of different amounts and asks Simon which debtor would love the creditor more? The one with the larger

debt forgiven. The woman loves much because she has sinned much. Jesus forgives her sins. The other people say “Who is this, who even forgives sins?”

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 - Jesus’ Ministry and the Help of Women
 - The Parable of the Sower
 - Showing the Light
 - Jesus’ True Family
 - Stilling of a Storm
 - Healing of a Demoniac
 - Restoration and Healing
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 - The Sending of the Twelve Apostles
 - Herod’s Confusion about Jesus
 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand
 - Peter’s Confession
 - A Call to Discipleship