

## The Writings Of Luke

### Luke And Acts

Probably Lucas - Physician

Not born a Jew, yet probably an early convert to the Jewish faith

Joined Paul on his journeys just before he answered the call from Macedonia - **Acts 16:8-10**

Luke's Gospel written between 50 & 60 AD, followed by The Acts of the Apostles probably in the mid to late 60s.

Close association with Paul evident in similarity of Lord's Supper institution, **1Corinthians 11; Luke 22**

Many explanations of Jewish things indicate written to help Gentiles

Written as an orderly account of the events of the life of Jesus and the beginning of His Church for the purpose of strengthening the faith of Theophilus, as well as our own.

### Gospel Has 4 Basic Sections

Luke writes from a "geographic" order, rather than strict chronological. - **Luke 1:1-4**

Begins with Promise, birth, and early life. **Chapters 1-3**

The praise song of Mary and Zechariah's prophecy are included with the promises and birth story of John in chapter 1.

Chapter 2 gives an account of the birth of Jesus and events of his childhood years.

Chapter 3 tells of John's ministry and this section closes with a genealogy of Jesus that verifies some of the prophecy about the Messiah.

The second section follows the ministry of Jesus in Galilee **Chapters 4-9**

Includes His temptation in the wilderness

Rejection in Nazareth

Calling the Apostles and the limited commission

Multiple healings

At least 2 resurrections - Widow's son at Nain, Jairus' daughter

Calming the sea

Feeding 5000 with 5 loaves & 2 fish

Peter's confession

Transfiguration

The third section moves to Judea **Chapters 10-19**

Begins with sending of 70

Teaching on prayer; Many parables

Put God first in all things; Humility

Near the end of this section find foretelling of His death

Closes with Zacchaeus and triumphant entry to Jerusalem

The final section of this Gospel is spent in Jerusalem **Chapters 20-24**

This section includes the Temple teaching on authority, resurrection, hypocrisy of scribes

Widow's sacrifice; Need to be ready

The last few days of Jesus are found in Chapter 22.

Chapter 23 contains the Roman trials and crucifixion

The final chapter deals with the resurrection to the ascension

### The Acts Of The Apostles Also Has 4 Basic Sections

Joined with this Gospel is a second volume that picks up here and carries us through the establishment of the Church and spread of the Gospel throughout the world, The Acts of The Apostles. - **Acts 1:8**

Luke connects the two volumes by once again addressing Theophilus and referencing his Gospel.

Then he continues the story with a little more detail of the Ascension.

When we look at the overall organization of this second volume, we find that Luke once again arranges his text in a "geographical" order. There is even a little "back and forth" in time to keep this general order in place. - **Acts 8:1,4; 11:19**

From where the Gospel ended, the first section tells events that began in Jerusalem **Chapters 1-7**  
These chapters deal with the beginning of the Church and the work of the Apostles, mainly Peter and John, in reaching the Jews in Jerusalem and Judea.

We see their reaction to persecution, their fellowship and devotion to one another, and their boldness in proclaiming the Gospel

The story of Stephen brings this section to a close.

Our second section follows the move from Judea into Samaria as they spread the Word. **Chapter 8-10**  
This second section show us an interim step in the spread of the Gospel. Samaritans were Jews, just not pure, verified Jews.

We see the preaching of Philip along with Peter and John in this section.

We also read of the Word reaching outside of the regions around Jerusalem.

Near the end of this section we see preparation for reaching the world with the Gospel.

Saul, the persecutor, is converted

Peter preaches in Lydda and Joppa

Then presents the Gospel to Gentiles in Caesarea at the home of Cornelius.

**Chapter 11** ends this section and begins the third set of stories that carries the Gospel into the World

Here we read how God's Word spread into the majority of the Roman Empire. **Chapter 11-21**

This section follows the travels of Saul, now Paul, as he works tirelessly to give all men access to the Word of God.

After reading of disciples working in Antioch we read once more of Peter and events in Jerusalem.

From that we follow Barnabas and Paul into Asia.

Jerusalem once again comes into focus in Chapter 15 as it is the origin of some false teaching regarding circumcision of Gentiles.

This is about the time scholars think that James wrote his epistle. It is also thought that John Mark, who accompanied Barnabas and Paul in the early part of their first journey, wrote his account of the life of Christ sometime close to this.

While this is dealt with decisively at the time, it would be a continual problem for Paul as he sought to bring Jew and Gentile together in Christ.

Paul returns to strengthen those new disciples in Asia.

It was during this trip that he chose Timothy to travel with him.

He then follows the Spirit into Macedonia and Achaia, present day Greece, establishing churches wherever he found believers.

It is during this time, probably while he was in Corinth, that Paul wrote the two letters to the brethren in Thessalonica

In Corinth he found Aquila and Priscilla, who travelled with him to Ephesus on his return to Antioch.

After a brief time in Antioch Paul once again traveled through Galatia and Phrygia, this time stopping at Ephesus for a few years.

It is thought that during this time at Ephesus he wrote the first of his letters to the Corinthian brethren.

Following trouble at Ephesus he travelled to Macedonia again and wrote his second letter to Corinth upon the return of Titus from that city.

Paul visited Corinth before returning to Jerusalem by way of Troas and Miletus, where he met with the Ephesian elders for the last time.

During this stay at Corinth he probably wrote his letter to the Romans and his letter to the churches of Galatia was probably written at this time as well.

In our final section Paul's efforts take a definite turn. **Chapter 21-28**

In Jerusalem he is arrested, put on trial, and imprisoned. Following a move to Caesarea, to save his life, he is kept in prison by the Romans, to keep the Jewish leaders happy, for several years.

After giving his defense before several Roman rulers, Paul appeals to Caesar and is sent to Rome. The final two chapters of Acts tell of his shipwreck, marooning, and final arrival in Rome.

While brethren receive him gladly, many Jews are not convinced.

Luke leaves us with Paul in Roman custody for two years, teaching anyone who would listen of Jesus, the Christ.

It is during this time of imprisonment that Paul wrote his epistles to the Philippian, Colossian, and Ephesian brethren, and the letter to Philemon.

### **The Whole Story**

As you can see, these two volumes tell the story of Christ from before His birth through the spread of His Message into the World.

While Paul speaks to the Romans of travel to Spain in his effort to spread the Gospel, he tells the Colossian brethren that the World has heard of Jesus, the Christ. - **Colossians 1:5-7,23**

Gaining a good understanding of these volumes can help us see both the spread of the Gospel and the foundations upon which our faith stands.

Study in these books can help us lead others to Christ.

They give a very good background to the rest of our reading and study.

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