

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: SALVATION IN THE SON OF MAN

“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

AUTHOR: Luke, the Gentile historian and doctor who compiled orderly accounts of Jesus’ ministry.

† Luke was a historian who compiled eyewitness testimony of the events he recorded (1:1-4).¹ Luke may have reviewed

Mark’s Gospel and interviewed eyewitnesses during his two year imprisonment with Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17).

† Luke is the only Gentile to author any books of the Biblical canon. He composed this Gospel and the book of Acts.

† Luke accompanied the Apostle Paul during much of his ministry (cf. Acts 16:10-17, 20:5-15, 21:1-18, 27:1-28:16).

† Paul referred to him as “the doctor” and “our dear friend” (Colossians 4:14) as well as a “fellow worker” (Philemon 24).

† In 2 Timothy 4:11 Paul mourns those who have abandoned him, saying that, “Luke alone is with me.”

† There is no internal or external evidence that contradicts the authorship of Luke.²

AUDIENCE: both Luke’s Gospel and the book of Acts were addressed to “Theophilus” (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1)

† Theophilus “lover of God” is believed to be a Gentile official³ interested in learning more about Jesus.

† In *Matthew*, Jesus is the Son of David, the hope of Israel; In *Mark*, Jesus is the Son of Man, the hope of the Romans.

† In *Luke*, Jesus is the Son of Adam, the hope of Gentiles; In *John*, Jesus is the Son of God, the hope of the world.

DATE: 58-62_{AD}. Acts was written prior to Nero’s persecution (64_{AD}) and Luke’s Gospel was written before this.

PURPOSE: To present a historical apologetic for the person and work of Jesus as the Savior of all people.

† Luke may have compiled his accounts as a trial briefing for an upcoming court hearing of Paul in Rome.

THEME: Jesus is the universal Savior who was rejected by Israel and offered to outcast Gentile sinners.

KEY TERMS / THEMES: These terms / themes are repeated in Luke’s Gospel and are helpful to understanding the book.

1. “Jesus (x9) / Christ (x22)” is the Savior of sinners whose example of love is to be emulated by His people
2. “Holy Spirit” (x13) God the Father sent His promised Holy Spirit to fill, guide, and empower Jesus and His people
3. “Son of Man” (x25) the Lord who has authority to judge or forgive sins delights in pardoning rebels who will repent
4. “rejoice” (x12) the ministry of Jesus leads angels and sinners to praise God for His grace shown to them
5. “prayer” (x21) Jesus models the priority of prayer in and through His life (9:18, 28) and His teachings (11:5, 18:1-14).
6. “angels” (x23) / “demons” (x24) / “unclean spirit” (x5) the spirit world is working diligently to exalt or oppose Jesus
7. “salvation / save” (x5 / 13) more than any other Gospel, Luke wants us to see God’s saving work
8. “forgive” (x20) Jesus died on the cross to take punishment sinners deserve and rose to cancel the debt for their sins
9. “Kingdom of God” (x32) Jesus came to call people to repent and submit to God’s rule and reign
10. Poor / outcast / women / children – the good news of Jesus isn’t limited to those who are valued or honored in society

¹ Matthew and John were eyewitnesses of Jesus’ ministry, while tradition holds that Peter was the primary source of Mark’s Gospel

² Early writings citing Luke as the author: Muratorian Canon, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Tertullian, Eusebius, Jerome

³ Luke refers to Theophilus as “most excellent” which he uses elsewhere to refer to other government officials (Acts 23:26, 24:3, 26:25).

AN OUTLINE OF LUKE

1:1-2:52 – Jesus: The Early Years

1:1-4 – Introduction

1:5-38 – Prophecies About John and Jesus

1:39-80 – Praise over Jesus and John

2:1-21 – Birth and Celebration of Jesus

2:22-40 – Jesus Presented at the Temple

2:41-52 – Jesus Presiding at the Temple

3:1-4:13 – Jesus: The Divine Endorsement

3:1-20 – The Forerunner Proclaims the Son

3:21-38 – The Father Affirms the Son (Baptism)

4:1-13 – The Adversary Tempts the Son

4:14-9:50 – Jesus: The Galilean Ministry

4:14-30 – Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

4:31-6:11 – Jesus' Miracles Prove His Authority

6:12-49 – Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom Ethic (The 12)

7:1-8:56 – Jesus Ministers in Capernaum and Other Cities

9:1-50 – Jesus Ministers to His Disciples

9:51-19:27 – Jesus: The Journey to Jerusalem

9:51-10:42 – The Call of Discipleship (The 72)

11:1-14:24 – The Kingdom of God Unveiled

14:25-17:10 – Commitment and Compassion in Discipleship

17:11-19:27 – Readiness for the Coming Kingdom

19:28-24:53 – Jesus: Jerusalem Ministry

19:28-48 – Triumphal Entry and Temple Cleansing

20:1-21:38 – Parables, Persecution, and Prophecy

22:1-62 – Betrayal and Denials by His Disciples

23:1-56 – Trials and Crucifixion of the King

24:1-53 – Resurrection, Appearances, and Ascension



Gospel of Luke

- Luke and Acts make up approximately 28% of the Greek New Testament.
- Luke has 1151 verses, most in the New Testament.
- Luke wrote the largest portion of the New Testament—37,933 words in 2128 verses, compared to Paul's 32,407 words in 2032 verses.
- Approximately 1/3 of Luke's Gospel is unique material.
- According to Foxe's Book of Martyrs, the Gospel writer Luke "is supposed to have been hanged on an olive tree, by the idolatrous priests of Greece."

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Luke's Unique Emphasis on Jesus' Ministry to the Outcasts

The great reversal (1:48, 6:20-26, 13:30, 14:11-14)

Women (1:26-56, 2:36-38, 7:11-17, 8:2-3, 10:38-42, 21:1-4, 23:27-31, 23:55-24:11)

Children (7:17, 8:41-56, 9:37-43, 18:16)

Sinners (7:37, 19:7)

Foreigners (2:14, 2:32, 3:23-38, 4:24-27, 7:1-10, 11:25-37, 24:47)

Tax Collectors (5:27-32, 7:34, 15:1-2, 18:9-14, 19:1-10)

Samaritans (9:51-56, 10:29-37, 17:11-19)

The poor (1:53, 4:18, 6:20, 7:22, 14:13-21, 16:20-22, 19:8, 21:2-3)

3:1-4:13 – Jesus: The Divine Endorsement

3:1-20 – The Forerunner Proclaims the Son

3:21-38 – The Father Affirms the Son (Baptism)

4:1-13 – The Adversary Tempts the Son (cf. Genesis 3:1-6; Deuteronomy 6:13, 18, 8:3; 1 John 2:15-16)

Jesus' Emphasis on Prayer in Luke

3:21 Jesus prayed at His baptism

5:16 Jesus prayed in desolate places

6:12 Jesus prayed before selecting His disciples

9:18 Jesus prayed alone, with His disciples

9:28-29 Jesus prayed at His Transfiguration

11:1 Jesus prayed in a private place

11:5-8, 18:1-14 Jesus gave instruction on how to pray

21:34-36 Jesus instructed His disciples to pray before the Day of Judgment

22:39-46 Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane

4:14-9:50 – Jesus: The Galilean Ministry

4:14-30 – Jesus Rejected in Nazareth

4:31-6:11 – Jesus’ Miracles Prove His Authority

6:12-49 – Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom Ethic (The 12)

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Jesus’s Call to Discipleship

A disciple is a follower of Jesus who worships Him through loving obedience and helps others to do the same.

Jesus’ discipleship was rooted in relationships. (Luke 6:12-17, 9:28-36, 10:1)

Jesus’ discipleship called for complete commitment. (Luke 9:23-27, 9:57-62, 14:25-35)

Jesus’ discipleship was never divorced from real life. (Luke 11:29-32, 12:6, 24, 27, 54, 13:1-5)

9:51-19:27 – Jesus: The Journey to Jerusalem

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Jesus' Use of Parables

Why did Jesus use parables? (Matthew 13:10-17)

1. To _____ truth.

- *Parables simplify complex ideas.* (**Luke 13:18-21**)
- *Parables encourage faith in God.* (**Luke 18:1**)
- *Parables convict the hearer in a creative way.* (**Luke 18:9-14; cf. Luke 10:25-37, 2 Samuel 12**)
- *Parables clear up a misunderstanding.* (**Luke 19:11**)

2. To _____ truth. (**Luke 8:9-10, 10:21-22**)

How do we interpret parables?

1. Consider the context. (Matthew 13:1-3, 18:21; Luke 12:13, 15:1-2, 18:1, 19:11)

2. Consider cultural issues. (Luke 10:25-37)

3. Avoid allegorizing details. (Matthew 25:1-13)

4. One point, many applications. (Luke 15)

Money in the Gospel of Luke

1. Those in authority must not abuse those under their care. (Luke 3:10-14, John the Baptist)

2. The Gospel of the Kingdom is for the repentant poor. (Luke 4:16-21, Jesus in the Temple)

3. The Gospel of the Kingdom is for the repentant rich. (Luke 5:27-32, ate with tax collectors)

4. God will deal justly with the rich and the poor. (Luke 6:20-26, Sermon on Plain; cf. 1:52-53)

5. Covetousness is spiritually deadly disease. (Luke 12:13-21, Rich Fool)

6. Anxiety over wealth distracts us from eternal thinking. (Luke 12:22-34, Anxiety)

7. Wealth should be used to bless the forgotten. (Luke 14:12-14)

8. The need to use wisely use wealth for eternal purposes (Luke 16:1-15, Shrewd Manager)

9. The rich in this life must show mercy to the poor. (Luke 16:19-31, Rich Man and Lazarus)

10. Riches are a potential idol that can hinder you from following Jesus. (Luke 18:18-30; cf. 8:14, 9:25, 14:33, 22:3-6)

11. Coming to Jesus will revolutionize the way you think about money. (Luke 19:1-10)

12. Jesus is angered by those who use God to make money. (Luke 19:45-46)

13. Jesus is pleased by those who value God over money. (Luke 21:1-4)

19:28-24:53 – Jesus: Jerusalem Ministry

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