

Luke: The Doctor Gives a Second Opinion

Introduction

“Luke is everyman’s Gospel, the good news of salvation for all humanity regardless of gender, social status, ethnicity, or position” (Ken Hanna, *From Gospels to Glory*)

I. The Author—Two books in the NT canon—Luke and Acts—are traditionally attributed to Luke the physician. However, Luke is not mentioned by name in either of these books. He is only mentioned three times in the NT: Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11, and Philemon 24. He is also referred to indirectly in the “we” sections of Acts (Acts 16:10-17; 20:5– 21:18, and 27:1–28:16). Church tradition uniformly attributes Luke and Acts to Luke as the human author. There is no reason to doubt this long standing view.

II. The Audience—Luke–Acts was written to a man named Theophilus (“lover of God”). The way he is addressed in Luke 1:3-4 indicates that he is an individual believer of high social standing. The fact that the book was dedicated to Theophilus does not mean that it was intended just for him. Ancient writers dedicated works to individuals intending them for a larger audience

III. The Aim—Luke arranged specific works and words from the life of Jesus in an orderly account to confirm to Theophilus that faith in Christ rests on reliable facts and to communicate to a Gentile audience that Jesus is the Son of Man by whom they can be saved and enter the kingdom as well as Israel.

IV. The Arrangement—

The Gospel of Luke																
Focus	Appearance				Activity								Affliction			
Divisions	Childhood of the Son of Man		Companions of the Son of Man		Confrontations of the Son of Man		Conduct of the Son of Man		Comparisons by the Son of Man		Counsel from the Son of Man		Conflicts over the Son of Man		Crucifixion of the Son of Man	
	1	2	3	6	7	9	10	12	13	15	16	18	19	21	22	24
Topics	Miracles								Parables				Plots			
	Seeking & Teaching												Suffering & Saving			
Place	Jerusalem				Galilee				Samaria & Perea				Jerusalem			
Time	5 B.C. - A.D. 33															
Author	Luke the Doctor															

- I. Prologue and Purpose (1:1-4)
- II. Announcements, Births and Early Ministries of John and Jesus (1:5–2:52)
- III. Ministry in Galilee (4:14–9:50)
- IV. Journey to Jerusalem (9:51–19:27)
- V. Ministry in Jerusalem (19:28–21:38)
- VI. Death, Burial, and Resurrection (22–24)

V. The Analysis

Luke contains many unique features.

- Luke is the product of extensive research (1:1-3).
- Luke provides the most thorough presentation of the events surrounding Christ's birth (1–2).
- Luke is a “Gospel of Song,” recording five great songs (1–2).
- Luke shows a special interest in women (1–2; 8:1-3; 10:38-42; 23:27-28), the poor and outcasts (7:11-13; 14:12-14; 16:19-31; 21:1-4), and children (2:39-52; 9:46-48; 18:15-17).
- Luke was written primarily with Gentiles in mind. Luke often explains Jewish geographical locations (4:31; 8:26; 21:37; 23:51; 24:13). He traces Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam (3:23-38). Luke uses Roman emperors as chronological markers (2:1; 3:1). He frequently uses words that would be more familiar to Gentiles. And finally, Luke uses relatively few OT quotations and seldom mentions how Jesus fulfills OT prophecy as Matthew frequently does.
- Luke focuses on the joy of salvation (1:14; 8:13; 10:17; 13:17; 15:5, 9, 32; 19:6).
- Luke contains a great deal of unique material (about 90% of 1:5–4:13, about 60% of 9:51–21:38, including seventeen parables that are unique).

VI. The Application