

## LUKE

### BACKGROUND:

Like the 3 other gospels, the title is derived from the name of the author. Luke is the only Gentile to pen any of Scripture. In Colossians, Paul distinguishes him from "those of the circumcision." Little is known about him; his name appears only three times (Colossians 4:14; II Tim. 4:11; and Philemon 24).

Paul refers to him as "Luke, the beloved physician." He authored Luke and Acts, making him the most prolific writer of the N.T. (His writings constitute 28% of the N.T.). His language is the most refined form of Greek, matched only by the book of Hebrews. Both books are addressed to the same individual, Theophilus, evidently an educated and socially prominent person. Though not an eye witness of the ministry of Christ, Luke is a faithful historian drawing from testimonies of eye witnesses. However, he was an eye witness to some of Paul's ministry (see the "us" passages in Acts). He presents Christ in Luke as the "Son of Man," Jesus' most common reference to himself, and emphasizes the humanity of Christ. Matthew presents Christ as King, Mark as the Servant, Luke as the Son of Man, and John as the Son of God.

The key verse is Luke 19:10 which says He came "to seek and to save that which was lost."

Both Luke and Acts were probably written during Paul's first imprisonment, about A.D. 60-62. (Acts leaves off with Paul awaiting trial before Caesar). The humanity and compassion of Christ are repeatedly stressed in Luke's gospel and he gives the most complete account of Christ's ancestry, birth and development and his emphasis on chronological and historical accuracy makes this the most comprehensive of the four gospels.

His interest in people is seen in his portraits of Zacharias, the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the repentant tax gatherer, Zaccheus and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He also gives a more special place to women in his gospel.

He presents Christ as the Saviour for all, whether Jew, Samaritan or Gentile, whether poor or rich, whether respectable or despised, publicans and religious leaders.

### A BRIEF OUTLINE OF LUKE

I. Introduction of the Son of Man (1:1-4:13).

II. Ministry of the Son of Man (4:14-9:50).

III. Rejection of the Son of Man (9:51-19:27).

IV. Crucifixion and Resurrection of the Son of Man (19:28-24:53).

**HELPS:** Before turning to these, read prayerfully the Word of God, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide you and instruct you.

If you don't own a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, atlas, or reference search, don't worry. They are all available on the link below.

[http://www.preceptaustin.org/2\\_corinthians\\_commentaries\\_3.htm](http://www.preceptaustin.org/2_corinthians_commentaries_3.htm)

This excellent website is full of helps including commentaries. You will find John MacArthur, Ray Stedman and John Piper along with Charles Spurgeon and the Intervarsity Press Commentary (Navigators) as well as Matthew Henry's Commentary.