

Luke

Original Historical Setting

Author: Luke

Written: ~55-65 A.D.

Audience: First to Theophilus, then to Greek Gentiles

Occasion: Apparently Luke was responding to Theophilus who had been instructed in Christianity but wanted more detailed information about Jesus.

Timeline:

~6-2 BC – Jesus is born

~5-1 BC – King Herod dies

~27 AD – Jesus begins His ministry

~30 AD – Jesus is crucified

70 AD – Temple is destroyed

World Events that occur simultaneously

1 A.D. – Druids in Britain believe that they descended from a supreme being

16 A.D. – Romans make first known reference to diamonds

37 A.D. – Nero is born

Features and Structure

The book of Luke can be divided around the main parts of verse **19:10**.

Jesus “came” to earth as a man in section 1. He “sought” mankind in His ministry in section 2. Sections 3 and 4 record *how* He came to “save the lost.”

OUTLINE

1:1-4:13 Birth to manhood of Jesus

4:13-9:50 Galilean ministry of Jesus

9:51-19:44 Journey to Jerusalem of Jesus

19:45-24:53 Final days of earthly life and resurrection of Jesus

Genre/Literary style

A Gospel composed in outstanding (Koine) Greek

Key text(s)

2:14 – Glory to God in the highest

4:23 – Physician, heal thyself

10:3 – I am sending you out like lambs among wolves

19:10 – Son of man came to seek and save the lost

What to look for

- In the first two chapters Luke reported four wonderful poems (that are often set to music).
- Notice how Luke is very methodical (much like a logical doctor may approach things) in his reporting of the events of Christ’s life.
- Making a strong case for the resurrection from a rational standpoint, Luke reports resurrection appearances found in no other Gospel.
- The one fact that you can sense all the way through is that Luke is presenting Jesus as the Savior of the human race. Note that Luke’s record of Jesus’ genealogy goes back to the first man, Adam.

Interesting facts

- Luke is the only Gentile to pen a book of the Bible.
- Even though the Bible is full of history, Luke is sometimes referred to as the first Christian historian because of all of the carefully reported details he gives.
- Theophilus (to whom Luke addressed both the books of Luke and Acts which appear to be a two volume set) means “God’s friend.”
- Luke was a traveling companion with Paul.
- By volume, Luke is the most prolific of the New Testament writers. Luke (the longest Gospel) and Acts contain more total words than all of Paul’s letters combined.

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10