

Book Study: An Overview of Luke [Luke. 1.1-4; 9.18-23, 28-31, 51]

- Longest book in NT [12th overall]. 19,482 Greek words. Second to Acts [18,450]. Luke wrote 27.5% of NT.
- Perfect understanding [v.3]. Meticulous, painstaking [careful] investigation. Collated *written* and *oral* reports. To produce an “orderly” [arranged] account of all “Jesus began both to *do* and *teach*.”

The **Audience** [and **Aim**] of the Book

- **Theophilus** [‘lover’ or ‘loved’ of God]. Called “most excellent” – used of Roman officials. Likely a Gentile [Roman or Greek]. Man of wealth and high social standing. Possibly Luke’s patron [or publisher].
- Theophilus had been “instructed” in the Christian faith. Luke writes to ‘assure’ him of its truth [certainty].
- **Gentiles** in general [all lovers of God]. Explains Jewish customs and localities. “Capernaum, a city of Galilee” [4.31]. Genealogy of Christ is traced to Adam, father of *human* race.
- Greeks were intellectuals. Glorified human wisdom [philosophy]. Sought for *ideal* [perfect] manhood.

The **Author** of the Book

- Luke. A Greek [Col. 4]. Only *Gentile* author of Scripture. Possibly born in Antioch. University in Tarsus. d.84.
- *Three* explicit references. **1.** Paul’s “fellow labourer” [Philemon 24]. A synergy with others in the Lord’s work. **2.** The “beloved physician” [Col. 4.14]. Technical, medical language in Luke. **3.** “Only Luke is with me.” [2 Tim. 4.11]. Faithful [devoted]. Companion of Paul.

The **Associations** of the Book

- *Third* of four gospels. *Complete* record [compass points]. Humanity divided in *three*. **1.** Jew [anticipation]. “That it might be fulfilled.” King has come [Matthew]. **2.** Romans [activity]. Busy, active servant [Mark].
- *First* of two volumes [duology]. Acts = companion [sequel]. Luke = birth of *Christ* [30+ years on earth]. Acts = birth of *church* [first 30 years of its history]. What “Jesus” did and taught is perpetuated [preached] by church.

The **Arrangement** of the Book

- Luke loved *geography*. Acts 1.8: “*ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” Reverse pattern in Luke.
- Luke 1.1-4.13: **Uttermost part of the earth**. *Preparation* of the Perfect Man. Birth of Christ in context of world history and Roman rule. *Decree from Caesar Augustus the world should be taxed* [2.1].
- Luke 4.14-9.50: **Galilee of Gentiles**. *Power* of the Perfect Man. *Returned in power of the Spirit into Galilee* [4.14].
- Luke 9.51-19.27: **Samaria. Judea**. *Parables* [Pathway] of the Perfect Man. *Set His face to go to Jerusalem* [9.51]. *Entered a village of the Samaritans* [9.52]. See 13.22, 33.
- Luke 19.28-24.53: **Jerusalem**. *Purpose* of the Perfect Man. *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things...*

Summarised in *two* great journeys:

- 1. His Coming In** [Luke 1-9]. Lord comes from *heaven* to earth. Begins with *rejection* [no room]. Ends in glory.
- 2. His Going Out** [Luke 10-24]. Lord goes from *earth* to heaven. Begins with *rejection* [Samaritans, face was towards Jerusalem]. Ends in glory. Rejected Man is raised and ascended, “carried up” into heaven [24.51].
 - By *coming*, Son of God became Perfect Man to secure *salvation* [forgiveness] for *all* men. Simeon [2.30-32]. By *going*, Christ took his perfect manhood to heaven. The guarantee others will follow.
 - **Turning point in Luke 9**. King rejected [Caesarea]. Peter confession. Revelation of *cross* [v.22] and *church* [16].
 - Would you be His disciple? Rising tide of popularity, now suffering. Share future glory, but first, rejection.
 - v.23. “If any man will...”. Conscious determination. Not a passing interest, but a *lifelong* commitment. “let him [at once] deny himself” = definite decision to *dethrone* self and *enthroned* Christ. No longer I but Christ.
 - “take up [his own] cross” = daily willing to take place of personal shame [condemnation] in association with Him. *Keep on* following Him. **Trusting** Him. **Walking** in His footsteps. **Obedying** His commands.

The **Atmosphere** of the Book