

# LUKE – INTRODUCTION

## I. Author and Date of the Book

- A. Luke – The “Beloved” Physician” (Col. 4:14)
  - 1. Companion and worker with Paul (2 Tim. 4:11, Philm. 24)
  - 2. Comparison of Luke with Acts (Lk. 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-3)
    - a. The “we” sections in Acts (Acts 16:10-11, 20:5ff., 21:1ff.)
- B. Date – Most likely written while Luke was in Caesarea during Paul’s imprisonment: A.D. 58 (Acts 24:27, 25:13, 27:1). Before the writing of Acts, no later than A.D. 63.

## II. Purpose of the Book: To present the perfect humanity of Christ. An appeal especially to the Greeks.

- A. the human need of PRAYER
  - 1. Exemplified in Jesus’ life: **3:21** – His baptism, **5:16** – withdrawing to desert, **6:12** – all night in the mountain before choosing apostles, **9:18** – apart from disciples, **9:29**- His transfiguration, **11:1** – when He teaches about prayer, **22:32** – intercessory prayer for Peter, **22:41** – when He suffers before His death on the cross.
    - a. Others in prayer: **1:10** – multitude of people, **2:37-38** – Anna.
  - 2. Emphasized by His teaching (11:2-5, 18:1-8, 22:40)
- B. Jesus sympathetic with POVERTY (2:24, cf. Lev. 12:8; Luke 4:18; 14:13, 21; 16:19-31). Being poor does not keep us from God.
- C. Jesus sympathetic with OUTCASTS in the context of being SINNERS (4:29, 3:12-13, 7:29, 7:37, 15:1-2, 18:13, 23:43, 19:10)
- D. Jesus sympathetic with PARENTS – “*only child*” (**7:11-17** – Widow of Nain, **8:42** – Jairus daughter (cf. Mk. 5:22-23, Matt. 9:18), **9:38** – Man’s son with unclean spirit (cf. Matt. 17:14-18, Mk. 9:17).
- E. Jesus’ GENEALOGY traced back to Adam in contrast to Abraham in Matthew’s account (3:23-28, Matt.1:2ff.)
  - 1. “All” emphasized as benefiting from Christ, not just the Jews (1:79, 2:10, 29-32, 3:6)

## III. Other Features of Luke’s Gospel

- A. At least 60 incidents and events exclusive to Luke (approximately 43 of them have to do with Jesus’s birth and early childhood, and later Judean and Perea Ministry)
  - 1. The only Gospel to give information concerning growth from childhood to manhood (2:51-52, cf. 2:42, 3:23)
  - 2. Emphasizes events of later Judean and Perea Ministry (9:51-19:28): “Face set to go to Jerusalem” (9:51, 13:22, 17:11, 18:31, 19:11, 28, 37). Last six months of life.

- B. The Holy Spirit emphasized (1:15, 41, 67; 2:25-27; 4:1, 14, 18; 11:13; 24:49)
- C. Women are mentioned in Luke more than any of the other Gospels.  
(**Chapters 1-2** – Elizabeth, Mary and Anna, **4:24**- many widows, **7:11-17**- widow of Nain, **7:37, 50** – sinful woman, **10:38-41**-Mary and Martha, **13:10-17** – sick woman, **15:8** – woman and lost coin, **18:1-8** – persistent woman, **23:28** – weeping daughters of Jerusalem)
- D. 14 parables exclusively found in Luke:
  - 1. Two debtors (7:41-43)
  - 2. Good Samaritan (10:25-37)
  - 3. Friend at midnight -prayer (11:5-8)
  - 4. Rich fool (12:16-21)
  - 5. Barren fig tree (13:6-9)
  - 6. Seeking chief seats at feast (14:7-14)
  - 7. The slighted feast (14:15-24)
  - 8. The lost things (sheep, coin, son) (15:3-37)
  - 9. The unjust steward (16:1-13)
  - 10. The rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31)
  - 11. Unprofitable servants (17:5-10)
  - 12. Persistent widow (18:1-8)
  - 13. Boastful Pharisee – humble publican (18:9-14)
  - 14. The pounds (19:11-27)

**IV. Book Follows Four Main Divisions:**

- A. Early childhood and manhood (**1:1-4:13**)
- B. Journeys in Galilee (**4:14 – 9:50**)
- C. Journey to Jerusalem (**9:51-19:44**)
- D. Death and triumph through resurrection (**19:25-24:53**)