

Well-researched History - The Gospel of Luke

Luke, the Author

- Luke was a friend and travel companion of the Apostle Paul.
- By training he was a physician. Paul calls him “the beloved physician” in Colossians 4:14.
- Since Luke is not included among Paul’s Jewish companions in Colossians 4, it is safe to conclude he was of Greek descent.
- His Greek is smooth, indicating he was well-educated, as was his friend Paul.
- He is also the author of the Book of Acts, parts of which he writes as an eyewitness.

Date of Writing

- Somewhere around 60 AD. Acts ends with the Apostle Paul in Rome, while this Gospel was completed before that.
- It is likely that Luke did his research while Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea, on the Mediterranean coast.
- During that time in Israel, he would have had ample access to the written texts and the eyewitnesses needed to compile this story of Jesus’ life.

Distinctive Features

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke have much in common. John is the most distinctive of the four and was probably the last to be written. Still, Luke contains certain features that are not present in other Gospels.

- A unique birth story of Jesus, which seems to be based on personal testimony of Mary, the mother of Christ.
- A unique birth story of John the Baptist, woven into the story of Christ’s birth.
- The Gospel ends with the Ascension of Christ, the only Gospel to do so. This event is repeated at the beginning of Acts, also written by Luke.
- Luke includes several unique parables of Jesus, such as The Lost Coin, The Prodigal Son, The Good Samaritan and The Unjust Judge.
- He also includes several unique miracles of Jesus, such as a Miraculous Catch of Fish, The Raising of the Widow of Nain’s Son, and The Healing of the Ten Lepers.