

## The Introduction - The Gospel According to Luke

Today, we begin a New Teaching series on The Gospel According to Luke. In the Introduction we will get to know more about who Luke was, his background, and his tremendous contribution to the New Testament Gospel Narratives.

We will discuss the purpose and why Luke felt the need to write his Gospel, the means by which he collected his information, when he wrote it, and who his intended audience was.

Luke provides unique insight into the Ministry of the Messiah due to his extensive investigative work, his relationship to key eyewitnesses to the Savior's Ministry, his masterful grasp of the Greek language, and his knowledge of and cultural sensitivity to the history of the Hebrew people.

Luke's writings reveal information no other writer of the New Testament writes about. Luke's Gospel covers the birth and ministry of John the Baptist.

Luke's Gospel covers the birth and ministry of Yeshua the Messiah.

Luke's writings chronicle the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke's writings cover from the beginning of the Gospels to the end of Acts.

Who wrote Luke and what do we know about him?

His name is of Greek origin.

Luke: 3065 Λουκᾶς Loukas {loo-kas'}

Meaning: Luke or Lucus = "light-giving" 1) a Gentile, the companion of Paul in preaching the gospel and on his many journeys; he was a physician and author of the book of Luke and Acts in the NT

Origin: contracted from Latin Lucanus

Usage: AV - Luke 2, Lucas 2; 4

Antioch (of Syria) and Philippi are among the places suggested as his hometown. Eusebius and Jerome say that Luke was a Syrian of Antioch.

There are two Antiochs mentioned in Luke's writing.

1. Antioch in Syria where the disciples were first called Messianics
2. Pisidian Antioch



Antioch in Syria has a lot of history in the New Testament which is the most likely choice of Luke's birthplace.

One of the first deacons was from Antioch.

Ac 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

When the believers were scattered in Acts 8, some went to Antioch to preach only to the Jews.

Ac 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

Others from Jerusalem, who were scattered, spoke to the Greeks.

Ac 11:20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Yeshua.

The Apostle Barnabas was sent to minister in Antioch.

Ac 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

New Testament Prophets went to Antioch to minister.

Ac 11:27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

Prophets and Teachers were part of the assembly at Antioch, and it is believed to be the home base of Saul aka Paul.

Ac 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Luke had knowledge of what happened in Jerusalem during the Council Meeting where Paul and Barnabas was sent to inquire about how non-Hebrew people were to be accepted into the Body of Messiah.

Ac 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Luke had knowledge of the instructions that were sent from the Apostles and Elders of Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas to non-Hebrew converts to the faith in Antioch, and that they were accompanied by chosen men who were Prophets.

Ac 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Ac 15:23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

Ac 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

Ac 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul

Those who had been chosen were identified as two Prophets.

Ac 15:32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.

Luke was most likely Greek by birth and was well educated in Greek culture. Luke was referred to as a physician by Paul as mentioned in Paul's letter to the Colossians. Luke also accompanied Paul on various missionary journeys.

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

Luke was with Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome and remained with the Apostle after others had seemingly deserted Paul.

2Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Paul considered Luke a fellow laborer.

Philemon 1:24 Marcus/John Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas/Luke, my fellowlabourers.

Luke knew Mark. They both traveled with Paul at one point in Paul's ministry. This has led some to believe Luke may have copied some of Mark's writing.

Luke was not one of the twelve who followed Yeshua nor was he one of the seventy. However, Luke had a variety of sources from which to do his research, including the Apostles of Yeshua and the seventy.

Luke had access to Peter, Paul, Yeshua's brother James, the Prophets and Teachers of the Gospel that resided in Antioch, as well as the scattered believers who came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Luke most likely had access to Mary, Yeshua's mother, Yeshua's brothers and sisters, and therefore had several sources to validate his research and writings.

Although Luke acknowledges that many others had written of Yeshua's life (Luke 1:1), he does not indicate that he relied on these reports for his own writing. He used personal investigation and arrangement, based on testimony from "eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word".

Luke's Gospel was based on and written from a historical view from the research and data gathered.

To whom was Luke written? Theophilus

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles were both written to someone named Theophilus.

Lk 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Lk 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Lk 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

2321 Θεόφιλος Theophilus

{teh-of'-il-os}

Meaning: Theophilus = "friend of God" 1) the person to whom Luke addressed his Gospel and the book of Acts

Usage: AV - Theophilus 2; 2

Most excellent – 2903 κράτιστος kratistos {krat'-is-tos} Meaning: 1) mightiest, strongest, noblest, most illustrious, best, most excellent 1a) used in addressing men of prominent rank or office Usage: AV - most excellent 2, most noble 2; 4

Paul referred to the Roman governors, Felix (Ac 24:3) and Festus (Ac 26:25), as most excellent, suggesting that Theophilus was a high-ranking person.

According to Acts, Luke was written first and referred to as the former treatise indicating that Acts was a companion or continuation of the Gospel according to Luke.

Ac 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Yeshua began both to do and teach,

Lk 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Luke sets in order or arranges his research in the order it was delivered, suggesting that his writing might be in chronological order.

Order – 392 ἀνατάσσομαι anatassomai {an-at-as'-som-ahee}

Meaning: 1) to put together in order, arrange, compose

Origin: from 303 and the middle voice of 5021; TDNT - 8:32,\*; v

Usage: AV - set forth in order 1; 1

Lk 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Luke not only had access to eyewitnesses, but also verified his information with what had been written in the Law, the Psalms, and the Prophets.

Luke's Gospel contains several quotes from the Law, from the Psalms, and from the Prophets.

Lk 1:3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

Lk 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed