

The Gospels Period- Christ As Perfect Man... Luke 1:1-24:53

Luke, the beloved physician, (see **Col 4:14; Phil 24; II Tim 4:11**) writes the third gospel account that bears his name. He was Paul's personal physician during his travels. He presents Christ as the perfect man therefore the traditional symbol of Luke has been a man. Luke is a very accurate scholar and writes as a historian to verify the facts of history. Most see his writing as being to the Greek mind. Remember Matthew wrote to the Jews and Mark to the Romans.

Luke emphasis is on the parables of Jesus. He also presents a genealogy that leads back to Adam. (See **EXTRA STEPS A**) He traces the line of David through Nathan not Solomon like Matthew.

Luke is the last of what is known as the synoptic gospels. When we talk about the Synoptic gospels we mean they wrote primarily from the same viewpoint. While much of the material is common to all three of these gospels there is a lot that is unique. Merrill Unger in *Unger's Bible Handbook* lists a total of sixty-one events and incidents exclusive to Luke. In fact Luke uses 266 words, not counting common names, found nowhere else in the New Testament. There are a total of 38 sections not in the other gospels. These include six miracles and twelve parables.

One thing that is apparent from the gospel of Luke is the human interest of Jesus. He cared for individual people. Luke also showed Jesus concern for women and children as well as the poor and disreputable. We find Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary and Martha, the woman afflicted eighteen years, and the

women who ministered to Jesus thereby showing the importance of women.

Because Luke is a synoptic gospel the chronology is basically the same as Matthew and Luke. We will focus on the parables of Luke unique to him in our broader study. Notice the following general outline.

I- Birth through the Beginning of His Ministry... Luke 1:1-4:13

II- His Ministry in Galilee... Luke 4:14-9:50

III- Ministry in Route to Jerusalem... Luke 9:51-19:27

IV- Jerusalem Ministry... Luke 19:28-21:38

V- Death & Resurrection... Luke 22:1-24:53

I- Birth through the Beginning of His Ministry... Luke 1:1-4:13

Luke addresses his gospel to a man named Theophilus. **1:1** Luke also wrote to him in Acts. Luke says he wrote to set the record straight, so to speak. Luke gets his information from four sources. 1- Eyewitnesses (1:2), 2- ministers of the word (1: 2), 3- first hand knowledge (1:3) and 4- from above. The Gr. word translated "**from the very first**" is *anthen*, from above. [See **John 3:3,7,31; 19:11,23** for this same word translated.] In the KJV this word is translated, "*from above, again, from the beginning (very first), the top.*" So we again can indeed say that Luke was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write.

The two first chapters of Luke are peculiar to this gospel. The birth of John, Gabriel's visit to Mary for the announcement of the birth of Messiah. **Luke 1:46-55** is know as the

Magnificat." Luke also records the taking of Jesus to the temple where Simeon and Anna broke into praise. (**2:25-28**)

II- His Ministry in Galilee... **Luke 4:14-9:50**

Our Lord is first seen as He ministries in Galilee in the North. Luke does not place his focus on this region ministry. He records for us Christ's rejection at Nazareth (**4:15-30**). Jesus also gives a sermon known as the sermon on the plains recorded in **6:17-49**.

III- Ministry in Route to Jerusalem ...**Luke 9:51-19:27**

As we turn our attention to the trip to Jerusalem we see several chapters given to this trip and the events along the way.

Christ sent out seventy two by two that returned to report in **11:1-24**.

One of the best known and most loved parables is the Good Samaritan found in **10:25-37**. Allow me to list the parables unique to Luke. This will aid in your personal study of this book. We will not have time in our study to give much attention to these. I also refer you to the Winter Bible Study 1998 of the SBC which focuses on the parables of Luke.

- 1- The Good Samaritan... **10:25-37**
- 2- Friend at midnight... **11:5-8**
- 3- Barren fig tree... **13:6-9**
- 4- Ambitious guest... **14:7-14**
- 5- Great Banquet... **14:15-24**
- 6- Lost Sheep... **15:3-7**
- 7- Lost Coin... **15:8-10**
- 8- Prodigal Son... **15:11-32**
- 9- Dishonest Manager... **16:1-18**
- 10- Importunate Widow... **18:1-8**
- 11- The Pharisee and Publicans... **18:9-14**

12- The Pound... **19:11-27**.

(Based on *Unger's Bible Handbook*)

In addition to this we find the story of the rich man and Lazarus in **16:19-31** and the conversion of Zacchaeus in **19:2-10**.

IV- Jerusalem Ministry... **Luke 19:28-21:38**

The sadness felt by our Lord is clearly seen in **19:41-44** where He is seen weeping over Jerusalem.

V- Death & Resurrection... **Luke 22:1-24:53**

We see the burden He carried in the account of the Garden where His sweat became drops of blood. **22:44**.

The soldiers arrested him after He was betrayed by Judas and He stood trial. One of the most gripping accounts of these last hours is the struggle of Peter who's claim that he would not deny Christ proves false. (see **22:54-62**)

Luke alone also records the penitent thief on the cross. (see **23:39-43**).

The resurrection and ascension back into Heaven is the subject of **Luke 24**. This has been called the vindication of Jesus. The resurrection proves that He was who He said He was both man and God.

