

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

EMBRY HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Segment 6 August/September 2020

Sewell Hall & Barry Caudill

DATE	LESSON	TITLE
August 2	1	Introduction to Luke; Preface, Birth of John Promised (1:1-25)
August 5	2	Annunciation to Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, Birth of John the Baptist (1:25-80)
August 9	3	Birth of Jesus, Shepherd's visit, Presentation at Temple Flight into Egypt, Return To Nazareth, Jerusalem at 12, Growth (2:1-52)
August 12	4	Ministry of John, Genealogy, Visit to Nazareth (3:1-19, 23-38; 4:16-30)
August 16	5	Call of the Four, Healing a Centurion's Servant, Raising son of widow of Nain, Support of women, Final departure from Galilee (5:1-11; 7:1-17; 8:1-3; 9:51-56)
August 19	6	Mission of the Seventy, Good Samaritan, Martha & Mary (10:1-42)
August 23	7	Discourse on Prayer, Against the Pharisees, The Rich Fool Galileans slain by Pilate, Woman healed on Sabbath, Question whether few are saved, Reply to Herod (11:1-13, 27-32; 12:13-21)
August 26	8	Galileans slain by Pilate, Woman healed on Sabbath, Question whether few are saved, Reply to Herod, Discourse at Pharisee's table (13:1-14:14)
August 30	9	The Great Supper, Counting the Cost, Parables of Lost Things (14:15 – 15:32)
September 2	10	Parable of Unjust Steward, Law & Prophets, Divorce & Remarriage, Rich Man and Lazarus (16:1-31)
September 6	11	Concerning Forgiveness and Faith, The ten lepers The coming of the Kingdom, Second Coming (17:1-37)
September 9	12	Persistence in Prayer, The Pharisee and the Publican, Zacchaeus, Parable of the Minas (18:1-14; 19:1-28)
September 13	13	The Resurrection, Two Men on Road to Emmaus, Appearances to disciples in Jerusalem, The Ascension (24:1-50)

## **Lesson 1: Introduction, Preface, Birth of John Promised (Luke 1:1-25)**

### **I. The Author**

- A. Author of 3<sup>rd</sup> Gospel also wrote Acts (Lk 1:3; Acts 1:1)
- B. Author not an eyewitness (sources were, Lk 1:2)
- C. Travel-mate of Paul
- D. Ancient sources cite Luke as author
- E. Internal evidence for Luke's authorship
  - 1. Paul cites Luke as companion (Col 4:14; Phile 24; 2 Tim 4:11)
  - 2. "Medical" language in Luke/Acts (Lk 4:38; 5:12; 6:18; 9:42; 13:11)

### **II. Possible Sources**

- A. Eyewitnesses
  - 1. James, brother of Jesus (Acts 21:18)
  - 2. Other elders and congregation in Jerusalem
  - 3. Philip (Acts 21:10)
  - 4. Silas – a notable member of Jerusalem church (Acts 15:22)
  - 5. Mark (Col 4:10, 14; Phile 24)
  - 6. Mary, mother of Jesus (Lk 2:19, 51)
- B. Written accounts (Lk 1:1; 2 Tim 4:11, 13)

### **III. Time of Writing**

- A. Citations in other books
  - 1. Justin (150 A.D.)
  - 2. Marcion's heretical "Gospel" (140 A.D.)
  - 3. Gnostics Basilides and Valentinus (120-140 A.D.)
  - 4. Apocryphal "Gospel according to Peter" (130 A.D.)
  - 5. Didache (80-120 A.D.)
  - 6. Polycarp (110 A.D.)
  - 7. Ignatius (107 A.D.)
  - 8. Clement of Rome (95 A.D.)
- B. Arguments for pre-70 A.D. date
  - 1. Acts written after Luke (Acts 1:1) and it ends with Paul awaiting trial in Rome (Acts 28:30-31) – *Why would Luke not have noted the trial, release, or execution of Paul?*
  - 2. No mention in Acts of destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) – *Luke mentions the fulfillment of Agabus' prophecy (Acts 11:28), why no reference to Jesus' prophecy?*

#### IV. Historical Reliability

##### A. William M. Ramsay

1. Not a theologian or an apologist but from a recognized authority in the field of archaeology. He began his investigation with much skepticism.
2. "I began with a mind unfavorable to it [Acts]... It did not lie then in my line of life to investigate the subject minutely; but more recently I found myself often brought into contact with the book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor. It was gradually borne in upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvelous truth."

##### B. Colin Hemer identifies 84 facts in the last 16 chapters of Acts that have been confirmed by historical and archaeological research.

##### C. A disturbing problem for the skeptic.

1. Luke reports a total of 35 miracles in the same book in which he records all 84 of these historically confirmed details. (Norman Geisler)
2. Craig Blomberg "A historian who has been found trustworthy where he or she can be tested should be given the benefit of the doubt in cases where no tests are available."

##### D. Luke names 11 historically confirmed leaders in the first three chapters of his Gospel (12 if you include Jesus).

1. These include Herod the Great (1:5), Caesar Augustus (2:1), Quirinius (2:2), and then the leaders in 3:1-2.
2. F. F. Bruce "A writer who thus relates his story to the wider context of world history is courting trouble if he is not careful; he affords his critical readers so many opportunities for testing his accuracy. Luke takes this risk, and stands the test admirably."

#### V. Some Important Themes

##### A. Jesus, the Perfect Savior for all Mankind (1:31; 2:11, 30; 4:16-32; 19:10; 24:46-47)

1. Samaritans (9:51-56; 10:30-37; 17:11-19) and Pagans (2:32; 3:6, 38; 4:25-27; 7:9; 10:1; 24:47) as well as Jews (1:33; 2:10)
2. Publicans, sinners and outcasts (3:12; 5:27-32; 7:37-50; 19:2-10; 23:43) as well as respectable people (7:36; 11:37; 14:1)
3. Poor (1:53; 2:7; 6:20; 7:22) as well as rich (19:2; 23:50)
4. Women as well as men
5. Genealogy carried back to Adam (3:38) not just Abraham (Mt 1)

##### B. Jesus as Friend of All (including Outsiders)

1. Women (2:37; 4:26; 7:37-50; 8:2, 43-47; 10:38; 13:11-16; 23:27, 49, 55; 24:1-24)
2. Children (9:38-42; 47-48; 18:17)
3. The poor (4:18; 6:20; 7:22; 14:13, 21; 18:22; 19:8; 21:1-3)
4. Samaritans (9:52; 10:13; 17:16)
5. Sinners (5:30-32; 7:34, 36-50; 15:1-2, 7, 10; 18:13; 19:1-10)

##### C. Jesus as a Man of Prayer on all Occasions (6:12; 9:18, 28; 11:1; 22:45)

- In four brief verses, Luke accounts for the origin of his material and states its purpose. He also reveals to whom its contents are intended.

**Preface (Luke 1:1-4)**

**Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, <sup>3</sup> it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught**

1. What does Luke say was his source material for what he wrote?
2. What was special about the manner in which he said that he wrote his account?
3. Why did he write his account of “the things accomplished among us”?

**Angelic Message Concerning the Birth of John 1:5-25**

4. What can we learn about the life and character of Zecharias and Elizabeth?
5. Where was Zecharias, what was happening and how did he initially respond when Gabriel appeared to him?
6. What was the message Gabriel gave to Zecharias?
7. How did Zecharias respond to the message Gabriel gave him? What was the result of his response? Why do you think he was punished? What lesson(s) can we learn from Zecharias?
8. What did Elizabeth say about her pregnancy?