

- Oliver Wendell Holmes
- Arthur Conan Doyle
- Zane Grey
- Michael Crichton
- Luke...

- Did you know
 - Luke was a freed slave?
 - His master was Theophilus?
 - His brother was Titus
 - He was born in Antioch (Syria)?
 - He attended medical school in Tarsus?

NEITHER DID I

Speculations are not facts

- Critics once assumed Rome did not persecute Christians before AD 112 (Trajan / Pliny)
- ... which makes Acts a 2nd Century work.
- Baur: Acts 'can only be looked upon as intentional deviations from historic truth in the interest of the special tendency which they possess' [Baur, *Paul I*, 108].
- He not only failed to discredit Luke but encouraged diligent study of Acts (Ac.17:11) and thus sank his own ship.

- No historian of ancient world was subjected to as much scrutiny as Luke
- Luke: the only Gentile to write Scripture
- 50% of his material is unique to Luke

I. Luke: Acts & Facts

What about Luke?

- Wrote Luke and Acts. Lk.1:3; Ac.1:1
- Companion of Paul ('we': Ac.16:10-14)
- Preacher: Ac.16:10, 13...; v. 17...40.
- Fearless: Ac.27; 28
- Persevering: 2 T.4:6-8, 11 . . .
- Physician, Col.4:14
- Greek: Lk.1:1-4

Luke's introduction

- 'His mastery of the Greek language is evident from the freedom of his constructions and from the exceptional wealth of his vocabulary. In his two writings he has a larger vocabulary than any other NT writer and uses about 800 words which occur nowhere else in the NT' – Geldenhuys

I. Luke: Acts & Facts

II. Date of Luke & Acts

Luke and Acts: about A.D. 63

- Ac.28:30, house; release (Ph.1:25; Phm.22)
- AD 64, everything changed . . .

Rome burned

Paul / Peter

- Value of early composition date:
 1. Less time for legends to grow.
 2. Author's access to primary sources.

I. Luke: Acts & Facts

II. Date of Luke & Acts

III. Luke's Method Of Research
(Luke 1:1-4)

Luke's method of research (Lk.1:1-4)

- His introduction: 'A long, carefully constructed sentence in the tradition of the finest historical works in Gk. literature' – Liefeld
- Implies that what follows was meant for circulation.
- Herodotus...Thucydides...Livy...Josephus
 - Matthew: introduction is a long genealogy.
 - Mark: short sentence followed by OT references
 - John: a prologue consisting of the Lord's lofty entrance into the world

Many have undertaken... [me also, v.3]

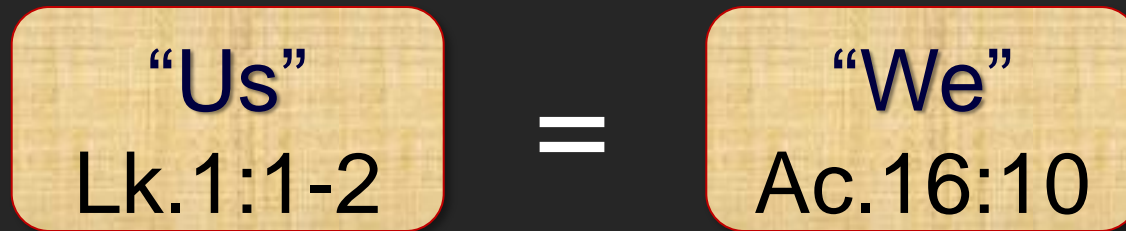
- *His writing follows work of others*
- Taken in hand: shows a lively, universal interest in Jesus and His ministry

Fulfilled (accomplished) among us

- *Finished, preserved*
- Lord accomplished what He came to do
 - Accomplish: when used with persons, means to 'fully convince, persuade'

Luke participated in Acts (not in the events of Luke)

- He wrote when verification was still possible



- Luke writes after Lord's earthly work ended
(*accomplished among us*, ESV) v.1

v.2: eyewitnesses: not limited to apostles.

- Luke draws attention to previous writers.
E.g., Mark. Lk.24:48
- Witnesses include “many” (1)
- Paul – 1 Co.11:23; 15:3
- Witnesses are important to Luke [eye / ear] –
1 Jn.1¹ That which was from the beginning,
which we have heard, which we have seen with
our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our
hands have handled, concerning the Word of
life... [from the beginning – even before Lord’s
ministry, in the days of John].
Mt.18:16; Lk.24:48; Ac.4:20

v.2: From the beginning
[even before Lord's ministry in days of John]

- Apostles: special witnesses; confirm His words / deeds
- Eyewitnesses / Ministers [servants] of the word: the message of the gospel.
2 Pt.1:16
- Peter with Cornelius – Ac.10:39-42
 - Acts 4-5: would Peter endure persecution and death for a lie?
 - Why did Peter stop saying he did not know the man (Mt.26:74)?

Luke's travels put him in contact with many witnesses of resurrected Lord

- Ac.21:8, Philip ...16, Mnason ...18, James
- Lord's brothers were not His disciples from the beginning . . . BUT: 1 Co.15:7
- Mary, Lk.2:18, 19, 51
- Caesarea (2 years) Ac.24:27 – near Cornelius and others
- Paul and his letters (e.g.: prison epistles) from Rome, Philemon 24 – Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, 'my fellow laborers'

Ministers of the Word (gospel)

- Ancient Gk. writers often stressed the importance of matching their words with their deeds.
- Luke combines 'do' and 'teach' –Ac.1:1

v.3: Luke possessed writings of disciples, v.2
“Draw up, compose/compile a narrative ...as
the context indicates, with emphasis on
orderly sequence” (BDAG)

1. Delivered them to us

Oral traditions fade with time
and change in content

2. Luke researches testimony (oral and
written)

Accuracy, 3

Having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first –NKJV

Having followed all things carefully ... NASB / closely, ESV

... 'to make an extensive effort to learn the details and truth about something...'

'since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning' (L-N)

- Herod, Mt.2:7
- Lk.3:1-3

6. Orderly account, 3

- In orderly sequence (BDAG)
- Mostly chronological and methodical.
 - Lk.8:1 Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve *were* with Him
 - Ac.11:4 But Peter explained *it* to them in order from the beginning...

6. Most excellent Theophilus

- Name: friend of God
- Luke's literary patron? ...publisher?
- Implies person of rank:
Lk.1:3 . . . *most excellent* Theophilus
 - Ac.23:26, *most excellent governor, Felix*
 - Ac.24:3, *most noble Felix*
 - Ac.26:25, *most noble Festus*

7. Certainty, truth, 4

- *That you may know . . .*

Napoleon: real person though no one saw, heard, touched, smelled, tasted.
Bible characters: fictional because no one today saw, heard, touched . . .??

OT: false?

Xerxes

Hdt.: true?

NT: false?

Augustus

Suet.: true?

8. You were instructed, 4

- *Apollos: Acts 18:25*

The main impact of the Prologue is 'that Christianity is true and is capable of confirmation by appeal to what had happened' – Stonehouse

I. Luke: Acts & Facts

II. Date of Luke & Acts

III. Luke's Method of Research (Lk.1:1-4)

IV. Luke's Medical Language

A doctor in the house

1. Lk.4:38-39, great fever

Galen: Greek doctors divided fevers into '*great*' and '*small*'

“Stood over her...”

2. Lk.8:43, can't blame the doctor (Mk.5:26)
3. Lk.18:25, needle, surgeon's needle

I. Luke: Acts & Facts

II. Date of Luke & Acts

III. Luke's Method of Research (Lk.1:1-4)

IV. Luke's Medical Language

V. Nautical Terms (Acts 27)

James Smith

- Luke possesses two great qualifications to write *Ac.27*:

“his perfect acquaintance with nautical matters, and...his accuracy”

Paul (*Ac.27*):
Gentile Prophet
Obeyed; rescued

Jonah:
Gentile Prophet
Disobeyed

Sir William Ramsay

“You may press the words of Luke in a degree far beyond any other historian’s, and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment, provided always that the critic knows the subject and does not go beyond the limits of science and justice” –
The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the NT, 89