

# Deep Dive into the Gospel of Luke

## New Testament Gospel Canonization" Part 2

14 September 2023

Continued from "[New Testament Gospel Canonisation](#)" Part 1

### Earliest 'witnesses' to Luke's Gospel

#### Papyrus $\mathfrak{P}4$

2nd century.

Luke 1:58-59; 1:62-2:1; 2:6-7; 3:8-4:2; 4:29-32, 34-35; 5:3-8; 5:30-6:16.

Possibly from  $\mathfrak{P}64+67$ . Agreement with  $\mathfrak{P}75$  in 93% of variants.



#### Papyrus $\mathfrak{P}75$

2/3rd century.

Luke 3:18–24:53.

Possibly from  $\mathfrak{P}64+67$ . Agreement with Codex B Vaticanus in 93% of variants.

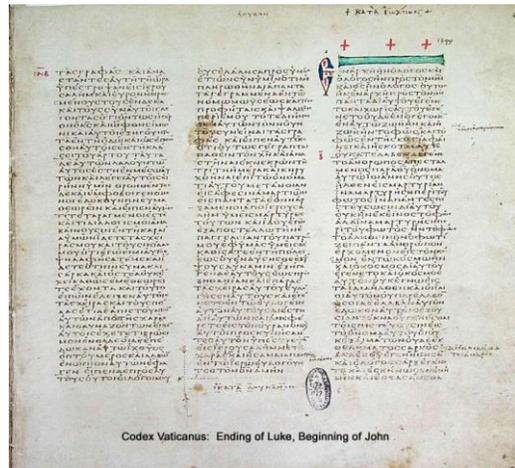


#### Greek Codex $\aleph$ [Aleph] Sinaiticus or 01.

4th century CE.

Written in uncial letters on parchment.

Includes *Epistle of Barnabas* and *Shepherd of Hermas*.

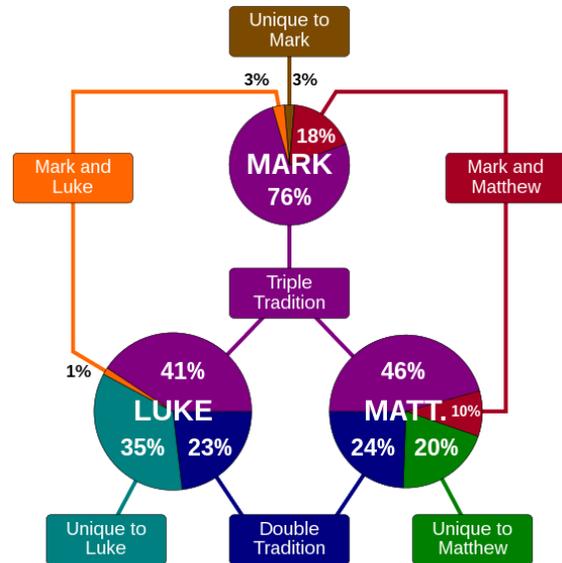


Codex Vaticanus: Ending of Luke, Beginning of John

## Luke, a 'synoptic' gospel

### Scholars debate

- *Priority*: In what order were they written?
- *Dependence*: Which borrowed material?
- *Written sources*: What other written gospels?
- *Oral sources*: What eyewitness accounts?
- *Translation*: What original language? Aramaic?
- *Redaction*: How were they later edited?



Source: Honoré, A.M. (1968).  
 "A statistical study of the synoptic problem".  
*Novum Testamentum* 10 (2/3): 95–147

## Origin of Luke's Gospel

### Conservative view

- Composed between 59 and 63 CE.
- Author: Luke, Paul's missionary companion.
- Widely known and copied by 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

### Liberal view

- Composed between 80 and 110 CE.
- Author: Unknown. Acts contradicts Paul.
- Still being revised in 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

## Origin of Luke's Gospel?

**2 Timothy 4:11** Only **Luke** is with me. Get **Mark** and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. **12** I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my **scrolls**, especially the **parchments**.

**Luke** was either a literate Gentile or a Hellenized Jew, maybe a physician.

## Theology of Luke's Gospel

### 'Salvation History'

- The Law, the Prophets and the Psalms.
- The Kingdom of God came with John and Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit abides in believing communities.
- We await Jesus' return as 'the Son of Man'.

**'Personal salvation'**

- Repent of disbelief and of disobedience.
- Alive with Jesus when our body dies.
- Hope of resurrection and Jesus' reign as King.

**Structure of Luke's Gospel**

- 1 Preface:** sponsor, method and purpose.
- 2 Birth narratives:** dawn of the promised new era.
- 3 John's mission:** Introduce the Messiah.
- 4 Jesus' mission:** resist temptation and hostility.
- 5 Journey:** messianic signs and teaching.
- 6 Jerusalem:** confront Israelite and Roman rulers.
- 7 Crucifixion:** last supper, arrest, trials, death.
- 8 Resurrection:** alive, appearances, and proofs.
- 9 Ascension:** gives Holy Spirit, mission to nations.

**In this course, we shall seek ...**

- To **believe** Jesus' teaching
- To **claim** Jesus' promises
- To **obey** Jesus' commands
- To **defend** Jesus' deity
- To **hope** for Jesus' return
- To **experience** Jesus' power
- To **proclaim** Jesus' Good News