

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

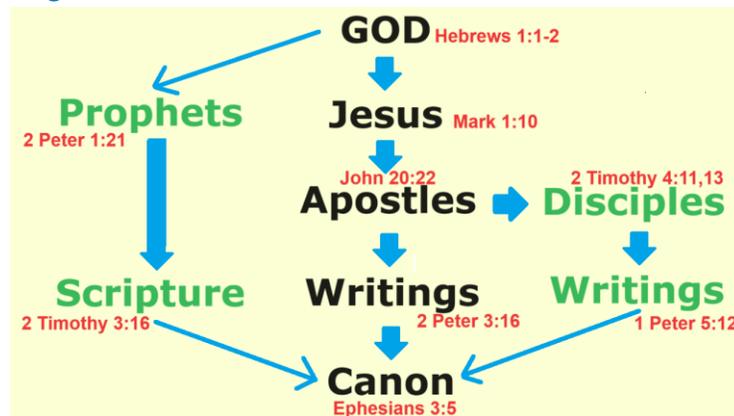
Learning objectives

- Define: Gospel
- Identify: Luke
- Introduce: Gospel of Luke
- Defend: Luke's place in our 'canon'
- Suggest: Luke's themes
- Set: Some study goals

Read Luke's prologue in Luke 1:1-4

Read Luke's epilogue in Acts 1:1-3

Origin of canonical books



What are 'gospels'?

Historical biographies that:

- Preserve truth (scripture)
- Inform seekers (evangelism)
- Teach newcomers (catechism)
- Train disciples (life style)
- Defend beliefs (apologetics)
- Build communities (theology)

Sample 1st & 2nd century gospels

- Egerton papyrus: Miracles and sayings of Jesus, some extra-canonical.
- Ebionite Gospel: Denies the virginal conception of Jesus.
- Shepherd of Hermas: Visions & commands supposedly given by Jesus.
- Gospel of Judas: Written in Coptic translated from Greek, teaching Gnostic doctrines.

Earliest Greek manuscripts of Luke's Gospel

- Papyrus ̡4 2nd century. Luke 1:58 – 6:16. Possibly from ̡64+67. 93% Agreement with ̡75.
- Papyrus ̡75 2/3rd century. Luke 3:18–24:53. 94% agreement with 4th century Codex B Vaticanus.
- Greek Codex ̡ [Aleph] Sinaiticus or 01. 4th century CE. Written in uncial letters on parchment.

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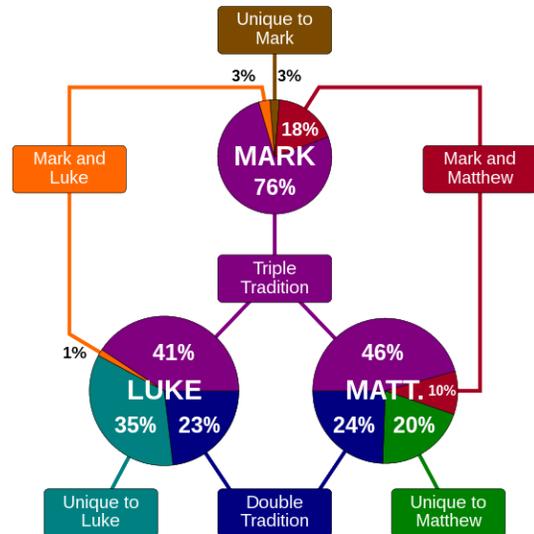
Luke, a 'synoptic' gospel

Scholars debate

- Priority
- Dependence
- Written sources
- Oral sources
- Translation
- Redaction

Who was Luke?

- Paul's companion (Col 4:14; Philemon 24)
- Gentile believer (Col 4:10-11)
- Trained physician (Col 4:14)
- Author of the Acts (Acts 1:1-2)
- Itinerant church planter (Acts 20:6)
- Author of a Gospel? (2 Tim 4:11-13)



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

Did Paul, Timothy, Mark and Luke draft this 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. Read 2 Timothy

When was Luke's Gospel written?

- Gospel of Luke was widely known and quoted early in the 2nd century.
- It was written before the Book of Acts which tracks Paul's mission until his imprisonment in Rome.
- Therefore, it was likely written sometime before 70 CE.

Conservative view

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

Liberal view

- Composed between 80 and 110 CE.
- Author: Unknown, contradicts Paul.
- Still being revised in 2nd century.

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.
- Persevere in confessing faith in Jesus
- 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. Luke 9:51
- 6 Jerusalem: Confront Israelite and Roman rulers.
- 7 Crucifixion: Last supper, arrest, trials, death.
- 8 Resurrection: Alive, appearance, and proofs.
- 9 Ascension: Gives Holy Spirit, mission to nations.

Luke's inclusivism

1. Angel: "to people of good will." 2:14
2. Simeon: "a light ... to Gentiles." 2:32
3. Isaiah: "all flesh shall see." 3:6
4. Samaritans portrayed as good. 10:33
5. Story: the widow of Zaraphath. 4:26
6. "Compel them to come in." 14:23
7. Commission to 'all nations'. 24:47

Luke's humanism

1. Jesus' interaction with individuals.
2. Jesus' interest in outcasts.
3. Luke's portrayal of 13 women.
4. Luke's interest in children.
5. Jesus' social relations.
6. Jesus' warnings to the rich.
7. Jesus' hope for the poor.

In this course, we shall seek ...

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

Assignment

VISIT [LUKE.CURRAH.DOWNLOAD](#)

- View Bible Project videos (8 min)
- View video overviews on 'canonization'.
- Read Luke chapter 1 in different translations on separate days.
- Read the notes in a study Bible.
- Consult a Bible dictionary.
- Compile queries and comments.