

The Life of Christ

PART ONE: Intro to Luke and the Gospel of Luke

1. What do we know of Luke?

- A Gentile, not a Jew (Colossians 4:11, 14)
- Met Paul on his 2nd Missionary journey, (Acts 16:9-10) and generally stayed with Paul from then on
- Named a “physician” in Scripture
- Called “The Great Historian”, even by secular historians – superior to other writers of his age in noting places and people in power, verifiable information
- Wrote more of the New Testament by volume than any other author

2. What do we know about the Gospel of Luke

- Written AD 60-65
- Like Acts, it is addressed to “most excellent Theophilus” – taken to be a literal person, a believer, and an official of Roman government. (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-2)
- Luke and Acts were probably written, at least to some degree, to be used for defense of Paul

3. Comparison of four Gospels

- Chronologically after Mark (5-10y), with Matthew, before John (15-25y)
- General Distinctions
 - **Mark** – First gospel account, written with Gentile audience in mind (with Paul & Barnabas for 1st missionary journey, Barnabas’ 2nd missionary journey, etc.) focusing on the final week of Christ
“Jesus the Servant”
Content – Blue-collar audience, source material for p/o Matthew and Luke
 - **Luke** – Provide an ordered historical account of the events concerning the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:1-4).
“Jesus the perfect Man”
Content – chronological
 - **Matthew** – Written to prove to Jews that Jesus is the promised Messiah
“Jesus the Messiah”
Content – prophetic fulfillment and markers, more actual dialogue and teachings of Jesus Christ, strong Jewish perspective.
 - **John** – Jesus presented as God, much more personal accounts of Jesus and the disciples.
“Jesus as God”
Content – More intimate perspective from disciples, almost all content is unique. More evangelistic content.

PART TWO: Luke Chapter One

4. Opening Address to Theophilus

- Luke 1:1-4 (discussed above)

5. The Birth of John the Baptist – Luke 1:5-25

- V4 – Herod, King of the Jews, died 4 BC
- V4 – Tribe of Aaron
- V6 – Both were righteous before God – means saved!
- V7 – Barren and past parenting age – like Abraham and Sarah
- V8-10 – Performing worship service to God
- V13 – “YHWH is Gracious”
- V15 – Nasserite from the womb – like Samson
- V16-17 – Identifies John as the forerunner of Messiah
Quotes Malachi 4:5-6
Jesus identifies John same; Matthew 17:10-13
John identifies himself (John 1:22-23) by Isaiah 40:3
- V19 – Angel identified as Gabriel, same angel who appeared to Daniel (ch 9) and who will appear to Mary (vs 26)