

1. AUTHOR

Q. What do you know about *Luke*?

A. Luke was a Gentile doctor¹ who accompanied the Paul from Acts 16:10 (Troas) onwards. Part 2 of his gospel is the book of Acts, which ends in 62 AD with Paul under house-arrest in Rome, so part 1, Luke's gospel, was probably written before then, and certainly before Nero's persecution of Christians in 64 AD and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and certainly after Mark's (Luke 1:1). *Luke* includes more parables than the other gospels.

2. ONE KEY THEME – 'A HISTORY OF THE LORD'S SALVATION' (LUKE 1:1; 2:30)

Luke wanted a man called '*Theophilus*' to be certain of what he had been taught (Luke 1:1-4).

3. KEY VERSE

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. *ESV*

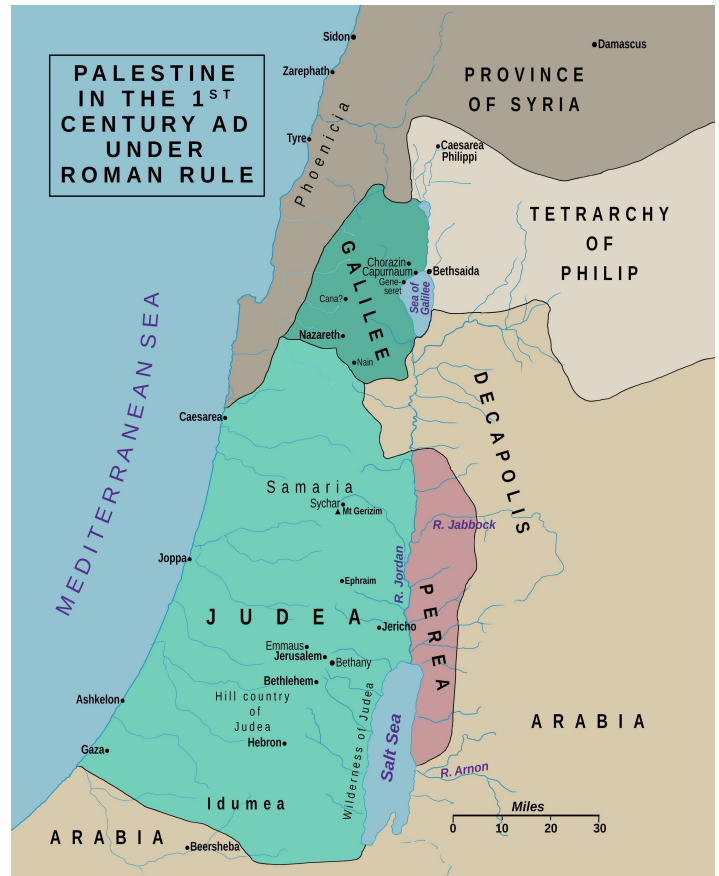
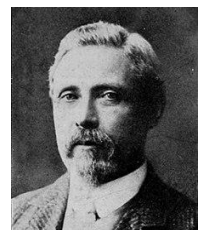
4. TEXTUAL STRUCTURE & SHAPE OF LUKE?

Sir William Ramsay (1851–1939), an archaeologist, initially approached the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts with scepticism. However, through his archaeological work, he became convinced of the geographical and historical reliability of Luke's writings:

You

may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historian's, and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment

2



CHRONOLOGICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL ³ STRUCTURE OF LUKE		Milne & Geldenhuy ⁴
1:1-4:13	The coming and preparation of Jesus for his ministry	Similar
4:14-9:50	Ministry in and near Galilee (see map)	Similar
9:51-13:21	Ministry in Judea	Journey towards Jerusalem
13:22-19:27	Ministry in and around Perea	
19:28-24:53	Jerusalem and nearby	Similar, more detail

1 Eusebias, *Historica Ecclesiastica*, ii, 4, 'Luke was by race an Antiochan ... physician ... companion of Paul' quoted by N. Geldenhuy⁴ in *The Gospel of Luke*, NICNT, Eerdmans, 1975.
 2 Ramsay, Sir William, *The Bearing of Recent Discovery* (4th ed.). Retrieved 4th December, 2024 from archive.org. Ramsay was writing about Luke-Acts in general and Luke's dependability as an historian.
 3 If Matthew is structured around Jesus' five sermons, Mark is more thematic, John theological, then Luke is the most Chroniological of the gospels.
 4 See photograph of commentaries over/.

5. KEY GROUPS OF PEOPLE

1. Jesus Christ ('the Lord' Luke 7:13 or 'master', Gk. κύριος)
2. The Holy Spirit and other spirits (Luke 11:13; 24:19)
3. John the baptist and family
4. Galileans (Luke 4ff)
5. Disciples (12 + others, e.g. Mr & Mrs Cl(e)opas)
6. Widows (Luke 4:25-27)
7. Gentiles (Luke 4:25-27; 7:1-10; 10:25-37; 17:16-18)

6. GREAT EVENTS

1. Nativity of John the baptist
2. Nativity of Jesus
3. Temptation of Jesus
4. Rejection at Nazareth
5. Sign-miracles (inc. 5,000 fed)
6. Calling of the 12 disciples
7. Teaching through parables
8. Peter's confession of Christ
9. Jesus' transfiguration
10. Sending out of the 12 and 72
11. Palm Sunday
12. Cleansing of the temple
13. Betrayal & Last supper
14. Jesus' crucifixion
15. Jesus' resurrection & appearances
16. Jesus' ascension

7. SALVATION SUB-THEMES⁵

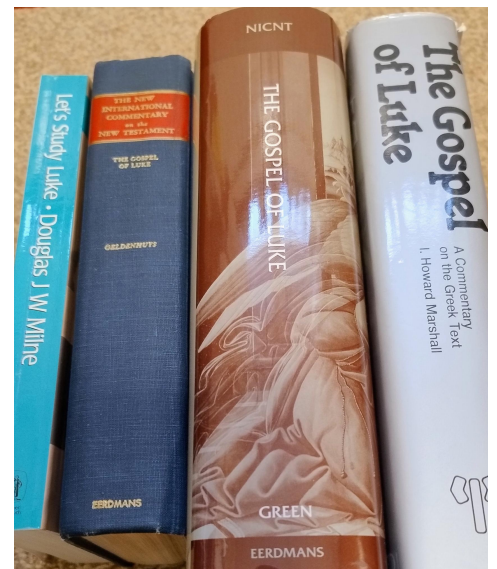
1. Jesus' identity (Luke 3:21-38)
2. Salvation of what was lost (Luke 19:10; 15:1-32)
3. Under-classes (Luke 1:7; 2:8)
4. Wealth (Luke 1:53; 6:20,24)
5. Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)
6. Joyful praise (Luke 2 – Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon)
7. The Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13)
8. Hospitality (Luke 7:36; 19:5)
9. Faith, repentance, forgiveness (Luke 3:3; 7:9, 47)
10. Discipleship (Luke 9:23)

8. LUKE IN PRACTICE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Luke 19:2-10 ... a man named Zacchaeus ... was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."

⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."



⁵ Themes 2 – 10 are taken from Douglas J.W. Milne, *Let's Study Luke*, page xiv, BoT, 2005.

⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house [-hold, i.e. family], since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." *ESV*

Q1. What themes from section '7. Salvation Sub-themes' arise in the story above?

Luke 7:2-10 ... a centurion had a slave who was ill, at the point of death, and highly valued by him. ³ When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ...

⁶ So, Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed by it. ⁸ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me: I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and he does it."

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him; turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found faith like this, even in Israel."

¹⁰ And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well. *DWL*

Q2. Same question: What themes from section '7. Salvation Sub-themes' arise in the story above?

Luke 7:11-16 ¹¹ ... [Jesus] went to a town called Nain [Galilee; see map], and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹² As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

¹⁴ Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

¹⁵ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying,

"A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" *ESV*

Q3. Same question: What themes from section '7. Salvation Sub-themes' arise in the story above?

Luke 11:1-13 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John [the baptist] taught his disciples.”

² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:
“Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴ and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted [by sin] to us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” *ESV*

This final passage is amazingly helpful on the theme of prayer.

Q4. What surprises are there?

Compare Matthew 7:11 with Luke 11:13

9. HOMEWORK

In Luke 1:2-3, Dr Luke makes it clear that he has interviewed ‘eye-witnesses’ in order to produce his ‘orderly account’ (i.e. history).

Q5. Which eye-witnesses may have contributed the following passages?

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80	Luke 23:44-24:8
Luke 2:16-19	Luke 24:13-35 (Compare v18 with John 19:25)
Luke 2:41-51	

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