

Introduction

Luke 1:1 - 4 (NASB)

¹In as much as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,

²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,

³it seemed fitting for me as well, **having investigated everything carefully** from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;

⁴so **that you may know the exact truth** about the things you have been taught.

Acts 1:1 - 8 (NASB)

¹The first account I composed, Theophilus, **about all that Jesus began to do and teach,**

²until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

³To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

⁴Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me;

⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

OUTLINE

- A. Birth and Preparation of Jesus, the Savior (1:1–4:13)
- B. Message and Ministry of Jesus, the Savior (4:14–21:38)
 - 1. Jesus' ministry in Galilee
 - 2. Jesus' ministry on the way to Jerusalem
 - 3. Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem
- C. Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Savior (22:1–24:53)

Who is LUKE?

Luke: doctor, Gentile Christian, traveling companion of Paul, and writer of the book of Luke and Acts.

Paul mentions Luke three times, in the greetings portion of three of his letters:

“Dear Doctor Luke sends his greetings, and so does Demas.” (Col. 4:14 NLT)

“Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me.” (2 Timothy 4:11 NLT)

“So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.” (Philemon 24 NLT).

Who is THEOPHILUS?

Theophilus (“one who loves God”).

Luke addressed both of his books—the Gospel and the book of Acts—to Theophilus (1:1; Acts 1:1). “Theophilus” literally means “one who loves God” or “friend of God,”

- Some have speculated that the name does not refer to an actual person but, rather, to all people who love God.
- “Most excellent” or “honorable” (the words preceding the name), however, was a title often used in addressing a Roman official.
- Most scholars conclude that Theophilus was an actual person, probably someone of rank in Roman society. Beyond that brief mention in Luke and Acts, however, nothing else is known of Theophilus. The name appears nowhere else in Scripture.

- The name, “Theophilus,” suggests a Gentile. This is consistent with the content of both Luke and Acts, which seem to be written to a predominately Gentile audience.
- Some have suggested that Theophilus may have been an unbeliever whom Luke was trying to evangelize
- Luke seems to be addressing a Gentile Christian who was questioning his faith. It is possible that Theophilus had come to faith in Jesus Christ as a God-fearer, a Jewish proselyte (God-fearers are mentioned in 1:50; 7:2-6; Acts 10:1-2; 13:16, 26).

Key questions that Luke answers for Theophilus and people everywhere:

- a. Is Jesus merely a religious teacher for the Jews.
- b. Is Christianity just an obscure sect of Judaism.
- c. Is Jesus actually the Son of God.
- d. Did Jesus really come to earth to save us.

Monday Morning Moment

“Have you really decided to follow Jesus?”

LUKE 9:62 (KJV) ⁶²AND JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, NO MAN, HAVING PUT HIS HAND TO THE PLOW, AND LOOKING BACK, IS FIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.