

Lesson 1: Introduction

Luke 1:1-4

The Gospel According to LUKE

19:10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying out loud. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

Lesson 1: Introduction

Facts About the Author

- “*Luke*” found 3x in New Testament – Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11
- Author by process of elimination – Acts 1:1-3; 16:10; 17:1; 20:5-6
- Resources of Author – Luke 1:1-2 – eyewitnesses; Mark (cf. Philemon 24)

Lesson 1: Introduction

Facts About the Recipient

- “*most excellent Theophilus*” (1:3) – cf. Acts 23:26; 24:3; 26:25
- Theophilus – *Theos* (God), *Philos* (friend, loved) – friend of God, loved by God.
- Luke’s primary purpose seems to be the spiritual well-being of Theophilus, and by extension all Christians.

Lesson 1: Introduction

Date of the Books

- Acts completed – Paul still alive in Roman prison.
 - Paul quoted from Luke's gospel – 1 Timothy 5:18 (Luke 10:7)
 - Paul's death – AD 66
 - Acts not after that Date.
- Luke written before Acts
- Two dates suggested – AD 58, or early 60s

Lesson 1: Introduction

Canonicity

- Widely used among early Christians – middle of 2nd century.
- Heretic Marcion (ca. AD 150-185) included “an expurgated edition of the Gospel of Luke” (F.F. Bruce).
- Ultimately shown valid by a quotation by an inspired apostle –
1 Timothy 5:18 (Luke 10:7)

Lesson 1: Introduction

Peculiarities in Luke's Gospel

- “*orderly account*” – *kathexēs* – “afterward,” or “in order” (VINE); “denoting sequence in time, space, or logic in order, one after the other, point by point” (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament)
- Addressed to Gentiles – Theophilus; **Luke 3:38** (Genealogy to Adam)
- Particular concern for poor, lowly, underprivileged – **Luke 4:18; 6:20-21; 8:1-3; 19:10** (cf. **Hebrews 4:15** – “*sympathize with our weaknesses*”)

Lesson 1: Introduction

Peculiarities in Luke's Gospel

- Emphasizes Holy Spirit – Luke 4:1, 14; 11:13
- Emphasizes prayer – Luke 3:21; 6:12; 9:28
- Apologetic – “Now it can be readily admitted that defense of the Christian religion against attack and misrepresentation, whether by Jew or Gentile, was included in Luke's purpose.” (Hendriksen)
- Biographical narrative of Jesus – from birth to death – though, not strictly biographical (mainly of His ministry)

Lesson 1: Introduction

The Life of Jesus Rests on Historical Evidence

- Luke speaks as more of a historian than physician.
- Written within 30-35 years of the events taking place.
- Written in the framework of history – Luke 1:5; 2:1; 3:1-2