

FAITHnews

The Gospel of Luke...

It's Theme and Author

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1: 1-4)

In taking up the study of any one of the Gospels it is always good to look at it in relation to the other three. We have four Gospels in the New Testament, and the questions are often asked, “Why are there four?” and “Why do they differ one from the other like they do?” and “Would it not have been just as easy to have given us one continuous biography of Christ rather than four accounts, all written by different writers?” That was not God’s desire. By giving us four different records written by four different men, we have a stronger foundation for our faith in the stories of the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are told in Matthew 18:16, “In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” God has given us this testimony not just from three, but four witnesses, each one written individually by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Another reason why He has given us the four Gospels is to present our Lord Jesus Christ in four very different aspects. Matthew was chosen to present Him as the promised Messiah, the King of Israel. Mark presents Him as Jehovah’s perfect, faithful servant. Everywhere in Mark’s gospel we see active service to God and man. John presents Christ as the manifestation of deity, the eternal Son of God, who became Man to bring us salvation. He deigned to become flesh: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

But when we turn to Luke, Jesus is presented as Man in all Perfection, the “Son of Man.” That is Luke’s favorite expression. As we examine this book carefully, we will see many evidences of this.



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January 2019 Newsletter

The Gospel of Luke con't.....

Luke dwells on the prayer life of Jesus. He never makes a move but he looks first to His Father in heaven. We see him praying, praying, praying, as every important occasion arises.

In this Gospel we also see Jesus frequently as a guest in the homes of various people. He sat with them and ate with them and talked over their problems. No other Gospel presents Christ going out to dinner as often as Luke does. Jesus shares their joys and sorrows and partakes of the good things that are presented to Him. When you meet a man at the dinner table you find out who he really is. So these accounts of Christ at the dinner table give us an understanding of His manhood, which we would not get in any other way.

Luke was an educated man. He was a "beloved physician" and yet a very humble man. He never mentions himself, either here or in the book of Acts. He and Paul met at Troas on the second journey. After that, Luke was almost a constant companion of the apostle, but as you read the book of Acts from the sixteenth chapter on, you will notice that whenever Luke was with the company, he says, *we* or *us*. When he remains behind and Paul and the rest move on, he changes to *they* and *them*. When Luke joins them again he reverts to *we* and *us*. He was with Paul to the end.

In Paul's letter from Rome, he writes, "*Only Luke is with me.*" He was a widely traveled man, highly educated, and was of a scientific mind and temperament. In all likelihood he was a Gentile. He may have been of Jewish descent, but his name is a Gentile name, and he writes for the Gentiles. His objective in writing this letter was to make clear to

the Gentile world the facts concerning the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His friend, who is mentioned here in the prologue in verse 3 as "*Most excellent Theophilus,*" was possibly a governor of a Roman province. He uses the title given to a high Roman official. Theophilus was a Gentile Christian who Luke was an intimate friend of. He wrote this Gospel to give Theophilus a clear understanding of what had taken place in Palestine.

Luke gives us a great deal of information that is not found in the other Gospels. It is he alone who relates the stories of the visits of the angel Gabriel to Mary. No one else tells us of the song of Mary and the prophecy of Zacheriah. The birth of Christ in a stable is only recorded here, as well as the angel's announcement to the shepherds. The presentation of the child Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, and the welcome given by Anna and Simeon, are only mentioned here.

Luke alone includes most of the material in chapters eleven to eighteen. It is he alone who mentions the coming of the angel to our Savior to strengthen Him in His Gethsemane agony. And had it not been for Luke, we would never have known of the penitent thief, nor of the visit of our Risen Lord with the two disciples on the way to and in their home at Emmaus.

How much then we would be bereaved of, if Luke had not been moved by the Spirit of God to search out so many things that no other inspired writer has recorded. There is nothing redundant here. All is of great importance and cannot be over-estimated, so far as its value to the church of God is concerned, and also its importance in presenting the Gospel of the grace of God in its manifold aspects.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

04 Roger Hagemeyer
05 Anita Cucarola
10 Lucie Thomas and
Danielle Kramer
15 Victor Wisdom
18 Penny Skoglund
20 Virginia Hazlitt
23 Makenna Eastin

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

03 Gene Cucarola
04 Phyllis Wilkins
05 Janice Morton
15 Sarah Fast and
Cody Bamford
20 David Wagner
22 Cooper Nelson
28 B.J. Forbes
29 Keith Edelen

ANNIVERSARIES

05 Victor and Mai Wisdom
08 Tom and Geri Rose

ANNIVERSARIES

16 Greg and Raedel Miethke



Jesus Loves Me

"JESUS LOVES ME"...we sing these words every Sunday at Faith...this is a brief story of how "the greatest children's song in history" came to be written.

In 1860, there were two sisters, Anna and Susan Warner, who lived together on an island, across the river from West Point, New York. They were poverty-stricken and needed a way to support themselves, and eventually turned to writing Christian fiction. One of the novels they wrote was entitled "Say and Seal". Within this novel is a story about a little boy named Johnny Fax, whose mother was dead. His schoolteacher, Mr. Linden took a fatherly interest in the little boy, and one day, Johnny fell ill...the doctor was summoned, but could do nothing for him. Mr. Linden took Johnny in his arms and paced, calming the child and soothing his fears. On one occasion, Johnny tried to talk, but only one word was understandable: "Sing."

Walking back and forth with Johnny in his arms, Mr. Linden began singing: "*Jesus loves me...this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong...they are weak, but He is strong.*" Mr. Linden was grasping for words as he sang, "making up" the song as he walked. As he sang, Johnny relaxed, and soon slipped away to the Lord.

As people read "Say and Seal" thousands of people marveled at the beauty of these words...but, of course, no one could sing them yet, as the tune hadn't been composed. One of the readers of this novel was William Bradbury, who was one of America's most prolific hymnists...he pondered the words, wrote the chorus, and created the simple melody that instantly catapulted "*Jesus Loves Me*" to the position it holds still today, as "the greatest children's song in history!"

(excerpt from the book, *Then Sings My Soul*, by Robert J. Morgan)

Submitted by Sandi Merrick



New Member Sunday is January 20th

If you would like to join the church our special celebration Sunday is coming. There are no requirements or classes. All we ask is that you love God and the Church. If you are interested or have questions talk to Pastor Jodie....

The Gospel of Luke con't.....

The book divides itself into four parts. The first four chapters deal with the birth, baptism, and temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The second division, chapters four to eighteen, gives the opening up of the way of salvation and approach to God. The nineteenth chapter to the end gives us the story of the crucifixion and resurrection.

Luke was careful and conscientious.... He sought out those who had known the Lord Jesus personally and learned the facts from their own lips. He was, of course, inspired by God, but the Spirit of God led him to make use of all reliable sources of information. He knew the certainty of the things of which he wrote. There were doubtless many uninspired records, now lost, setting forth much that was commonly reported concerning our Lord's life and ministry. These, however, were not authoritative; God would not leave us dependent upon untrustworthy records.

Whether Mark and Matthew had written earlier than Luke we cannot say. But if so, he did not copy from them. He wrote as divinely-directed, just as they did. John, we know, was not written until many years afterwards. It is the last of the Gospels in point of time. Luke was not seeking to cast doubt on any other Gospel record, but he wished Theophilus to have an altogether accurate account of "*all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up*" (Acts 1:1) so he wrote as an independent investigator.

We may think of Luke as going to Palestine, seeking out the still living friends of Jesus, interviewing them and so learning firsthand many facts concerning the

Lord's words and ways that others were not led to put on record.

This is the only one of the four Gospels that gives us the wonderful account of the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, though it is corroborated by Matthew. Luke was a physician, and the facts brought out here are facts which could only be expected of a physician. He had exact knowledge of everything he wrote. He probably knew the virgin mother intimately and learned from her own lips the great mystery of the incarnation. In the same way he would learn of other facts. And so he wrote in order that Theophilus might "*know the certainty of the things wherein he had been instructed.*"

We will continue our study of Luke until Easter Sunday. We have currently looked at chapters 1 and 2 and will continue through the entire book. I encourage you from the first of January until Sunday April 21st to read the entire book of Luke... It is an amazing read. (See The reading schedule on the next page)

If one has an open mind and an honest heart, the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the truth of God's word. I ask that you give special attention to the details Luke sets forth, and pray that the Holy Spirit will open the word to you, as He did to this beloved physician and to many millions since his day.

Parts of above article taken from....
Moody Church Media (<https://www.moodymedia.org/articles/gospel-lukeits-theme-and-author/>)



Pictures Of The Christmas Play

Reading schedule for the Gospel of Luke

WEEK OF

Jan 6 chpt 1
Jan 13 chpt 2
Jan 20 chpts 3-4
Jan 27 chpts 5-6

Feb 3 chpts 7-8
Feb 10 chpts 9-10
Feb 17 chpts 11-12
Feb 24 chpts 13-14

Mar 3 chpts 15-16
Mar 10 chpts 17-18
Mar 17 chpts 19-20
Mar 24 chpts 21-22

Apr 7 chpt 23
Apr 14 chpt 24

