

Key to LUKE

1. BACKGROUND:

The writer is Luke, a physician, possibly a Greek, and an intimate companion of the Apostle Paul in many of his journeys. Luke is not one of the disciples, but evidently knew them all personally, and derived much of his knowledge of CHRIST directly from their lips (1:1-3).

This Gospel account is dedicated to an important Greek noble man named Theophilus (as is Acts also).

The time of writing is about A.D. 60, possibly while the Apostle Paul was in prison in Caesarea.

The content of the book presents CHRIST as Son of Man; the book is particularly addressed to the Greeks.

2. THEME:

Luke presents CHRIST as the ideally perfect Man with all the beauty and perfection of His spotless humanity. CHRIST is seen with all the strength of manhood, yet gentle, with supreme knowledge, with commanding will power, with conscientious faithfulness, and with devotion to His Father's will even unto death. The key verse is 19:10. The key thought is the Son of Man among men.

The appeal is to the cultured, educated of earth. CHRIST is shown to be highest Ideal of all humanity.

3. MAIN DIVISIONS:

Introduction (1:1-4);
human relationships of Jesus (1:5-2:52);
baptism, ancestry, and testing of Jesus (3:1-4:13);
CHRIST's ministry as Prophet-King in Galilee (4:14-9:50);
from Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51-19:44);
final offer as King, rejection, sacrifice (19:45-23:56);
resurrection, resurrection ministry, and ascension (24:1-53).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

This Gospel is the longest and most comprehensive of all four. The writer presents many things not given by Matthew or Mark. He is meticulous about detail, especially chronological. Many times we can see Luke's medical knowledge showing through. He notes that Simon's mother-in-

law had a "**great**" fever (4:38); and the man's "**withered**" hand was his "**right**" hand (6:6); and that the daughter of Jairus was "**twelve years**" of age.

When he gives the genealogy of CHRIST he takes the line clear back to Adam, for this is the table of ancestry of the perfect Man.

The humanity of CHRIST is especially manifested as He weeps over Jerusalem (19); as He touches the ear of the injured Malchus (22); and as He tenderly comforts the dying thief (23).

The foundation passage for 5 of the great songs of the Church is in chapters 1 and 2.

5. OUTLINE:

Preparation

John the Baptist (1)
Birth and Infancy (2)
Baptism (3)
Temptation (4)

Preaching

Disciples Chosen (5)
Healing Miracles (5)
Sermon on Mount (6)
Miracles (7)
Demoniac (8)
Disciples Commissioned (9)
Feeding 5,000 (9)
Samaritan Ministry (9-18)

Passion

Predictions (9:22, 44)
Transfiguration (9)
Publicans and Pounds (19)
Triumphal Entry (19)
Enemies Exposed (20)
Second Coming Described (21)
Last Night (22)
Crucifixion (23)
Resurrection (24)

6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The intimate story of the virgin birth as given in Luke is truly magnificent. A delicate subject is handled with frankness, beauty, and restraint.

CHRIST is Master of the spoken word here. He speaks with truth, power, and authority.

7. KEY:

Expect to find here not only the greatest Man, Teacher, Example, Ideal, but also the pre-existent, virgin born, GOD of Eternity. You will not be disappointed.

~ end of Luke ~

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