

A landscape photograph of a dirt road leading to a lake and mountains under a cloudy sky. The road is in the foreground, leading towards a large tree and a body of water in the middle ground. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a sky with scattered clouds.

THE GOSPEL OF  
**Luke**

LUKE 1-9 / TERM 1 2022

# Luke

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*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 [words] you have been taught.** (Luke 1:1-4)*

# Overview of Luke's Gospel

## WHAT IS IT? (GENRE)

Luke's Gospel is the longest book in the New Testament. Like the other 3 Gospels, it is a biography about Jesus. It is a historical investigation (1:3), and the first part of the 2 volume set called "Luke-Acts".

## WHO WROTE IT? (AUTHOR)

"Luke-Acts" was written by a man called Luke (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-2). So Luke wrote more of the New Testament than even the apostle Paul! Luke was a doctor (Colossians 4:14) and one of Paul's travelling companions (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24, see "we" and "us" used in Acts 16:1-17).

Unlike the other Gospel writers, Dr Luke was not an eye-witness of Jesus. Rather, he was a very careful researcher. The fact that Dr Luke had a Greek name and used very good Greek language may suggest he was a Gentile.

## WHO RECEIVED IT? (AUDIENCE)

Specifically, Dr Luke wrote for "most excellent Theophilus" (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). While some writers question whether Theophilus was actual or symbolic (his name means "lover of God") and

whether he was a Christian convert or an interested outsider, 1:3-4 reads like Theophilus is a real man of some standing, who had been taught about Jesus, and so may have commissioned the writing of Luke.

More generally, Dr Luke wrote for the 2nd generation church (mostly Gentiles), who had not been eye-witnesses to Jesus and needed “certainty about the things they had been taught” (1:4), like every generation since.

### **WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN? (DATING)**

Luke’s Gospel seems to have been written in the late 50s or early 60s, as the book of Acts concludes before the deaths of Paul and Peter, which occurred during the Christian persecution by Emperor Nero in the late 60s. Luke’s Gospel may have been written during his two-year detention in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17 – 24:27).

### **HOW DOES IT FIT TOGETHER? (STRUCTURE)**

Luke’s Gospel gives us **certainty** that Jesus is God’s promised **Saviour of the World** (1:1-4; 24:44-49). And then Acts shows the outworking of this, with the **Mission to the World** (Acts 1:8).

Dr Luke uses **geography** to structure his account of Jesus, with a huge turning point in 9:51.

1:1-4	Dr Luke's Introduction
1:5-4:13	Jesus' Credentials - Saviour of the world
4:14-9:50	Jesus' Mission in <b>Galilee</b>
9:51-19:27	Jesus' Mission towards <b>Jerusalem</b>
19:28-24:53	Jesus' Mission in <b>Jerusalem</b>

So the gospel goes from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke), and then from Jerusalem to the world (Acts). Luke defines and defends the gospel, that we might declare the gospel (Taylor, 2018).

### **WHAT IS IT ABOUT? (THEMES)**

The Greek word 'sozo' can mean both saving/healing, and Luke uses it more times than any other book in the New Testament - the human doctor (Luke) wants everyone to know the divine doctor (Jesus).

*"[Luke] is telling of a man who has the power and authority to do the kind of work that he himself has been trained to do, but at depths undreamed-of, and in regions unexplored, and with effect so far-reaching as to confound his own elementary ideas of healing/salvation" (Wilcox, p19).*

# Map

## LUKE OVERVIEW










1-3	<b>THE COMING LORD</b>
	1-2 THE BIRTH OF THE LORD
	3 PREPARING FOR THE LORD
4-9	<b>THE LORD'S MISSION IN GALILEE</b>
10-19	<b>THE LORD'S MISSION TOWARDS JERUSALEM</b>
19-24	<b>THE LORD'S MISSION IN JERUSALEM</b>
	19 THE ENTRY OF THE LORD
	22-23 THE SUFFERING LORD
	24 THE RISEN LORD

The map illustrates the geographical context of the Gospel of Luke. It is divided into four main regions: Galilee (yellow), Samaria (orange), Judea (red), and Perea (light red). Key locations are marked with dots or symbols: Nazareth in Galilee; Caesarea, Samaria, Jericho, Jerusalem (marked with a red star), Mt. Olives, Bethany, and Bethlehem in Samaria and Judea. The Mediterranean Sea is to the west, the Sea of Galilee to the north, the Jordan River to the east, and the Dead Sea to the south. A north arrow is located in the bottom right corner.

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# Meals in Luke

## Feasting with Jesus

CHAPTERS	<b>EATING THROUGH LUKE'S GOSPEL</b>	CHAPTERS
1-3	<b>JESUS' BIRTH &amp; PREPARATION</b>	1-3
4-9	<b>JESUS' MISSION IN GALILEE</b>	4-9
	<p>Jesus attends a banquet at the home of Levi the tax collector with other tax collectors and 'sinners' (5:27-32) &gt;  <b>5</b>  </p> <p style="text-align: right;">&lt;  <b>7</b>   Jesus eats dinner at the home of Simon the Pharisee and is anointed by a 'sinful' woman (7:36-50)</p> <p>Jesus teaches and miraculously feeds a crowd of thousands (9:10-17) &gt;  <b>9</b>  </p>	
10-19	<b>JESUS' MISSION TOWARDS JERUSALEM</b>	10-19
	<p style="text-align: right;">&lt;  <b>10</b>   Jesus eats in the home of Martha and Mary (10:38-42)</p> <p>Jesus eats at the home of a Pharisee, along with other religious leaders, and speaks out against their hypocrisy (11:27-54) &gt;  <b>11</b>  </p> <p style="text-align: right;">&lt;  <b>14</b>   Jesus eats at the home of a Pharisee and teaches about feeding the poor and joining God's great banquet (14:1-24)</p> <p>Jesus invites himself to the home of Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector (19:1-27) &gt;  <b>19</b>  </p>	
19-24	<b>JESUS' MISSION IN JERUSALEM</b>	19-24
	JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY	
	<p style="text-align: right;">&lt;  <b>22</b>   Before he is betrayed and crucified, Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples in a guest room (22:7-38)</p>	
	JESUS' DEATH & RESURRECTION	
	<p>The risen Lord Jesus shares a meal with two disciples in Emmaus (24:28-32) &gt;  <b>24</b>   &lt; Jesus proves his resurrection by eating fish with the disciples in Jerusalem (24:36-49)</p>	
	JESUS' ASCENSION	

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# Study 1 - Overview of Luke 1-4

*This week, we summarise Chapters 1-4, which was studied in Summer Church. In the opening 4 chapters, Luke verifies that Jesus is the Saviour of the whole world, through 2 miracle babies!*

## GETTING STARTED

What do you know about the Gospel of Luke? Do you have any favourite passages?

## OVERVIEW

Read each section to see how Luke introduces Jesus.

Passage	Title	What do we learn about Jesus?
1:1-4	Luke's Introduction	
1:5-25	Miracle pregnancy 1 (John)	
1:26-56	Miracle pregnancy 2 (Jesus)	
1:39-56	The 2 mothers meet	
1:57-66	Miracle birth 1 (John)	



2:1-21	Miracle birth 1 (Jesus)	
2:22-52	Jesus at the temple	
3:1-20	John is rejected	
3:21-37	God introduces Jesus	

## REFLECT

- Compare the beginning of Luke (1:1-4) with the other 3 Gospels (Matthew 1:1-17, Mark 1:1-8, John 1:1-18). What is unique about Luke's approach?
- \*Why does Luke record the 2 miracle births? What is surprising about the genealogy (3:23-38)? How do these passages give us certainty?

## PRAY FOR THE TERM AHEAD

Pray this prayer about Dr Luke, from the 1662 Prayer Book, in your own words.

*Almighty God, who calledst Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul: May it please thee that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of the soul may be healed, through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*