

It Begins...

The Gospel of Luke 1:1-24

Notes about the author, good to know:

- A. **According to Tradition, Luke was a Gentile** (non-Jew), as Paul alludes to (**Col. 4:11-14**). This makes Luke the _____ gentile to pen any books of the Bible, which is a strong statement in itself to the intended scope of the gospel, missed by the majority of Jews until the coming end times.
- B. **Very little is known about Luke**. He never included much information about himself. However we do know that Both historians Eusebius and Jerome identified him as a native of _____, which is likely why so much of the book of Acts (which Luke also wrote) is centered around Antioch.
- C. **Luke was a frequent companion of _____**, who referred to Luke as a “physician” (Col. 4:14). His interest in medical phenomena is evident in the focus he gave to Jesus’ *healing* ministry through this book.
- D. **Luke dedicated his works to “The Most Excellent Theophilus”** (lit. ref “Lover of God”). This way of addressing him may be a nickname he uses due to Theophilus possibly being a well-known _____ dignitary, perhaps one of Caesar’s household that turned to Christ. Although he wrote this to Theo, he no doubt envisioned this to go to a much wider audience and indeed it did as God authorized it as one of the four official gospels. Luke likely wrote from Rome near Paul.
- E. **By the way Luke begins his letter, it seems apparent that he himself was not an eyewitness** nor one of the apostles, but being a doctor and thinker, he was a vessel chosen by God to bring unique historical information about the events of Jesus that we _____ see in the other gospels.

V. 1-4- The Purpose and Method of Luke’s gospel...(read 1-4)

1. Luke was a natural _____ of the gospel and had compiled a careful record.
2. **Matthew & Mark were already written**, but no doubt influenced Luke’s writings, but as we see that he had unique

entries, which shows us that he was _____ just plagiarizing from the other two.

3. **Thus, Luke did not get his information from hearsay or rumors**, but from _____ eyewitnesses of these events; people who are still alive that were there when it happened!
 - a. This is key when understanding the validity and authority of God’s Word (**2 Pet. 1:16-18**). Eyewitness accounts matter greatly. They _____ you and I, forever, to the “actual event” described.
4. **“So that you may know the _____ truth about the things you have been taught”**
 - a. While we live in a world that likes to slur the lines, so no one can be told they are wrong, _____ and exact truth matter according to God. Why? Because what we believe gives us license for how we live (**1 Tim. 4:16**), and as we have seen, a half-truth distortion can drastically affect _____ and outcomes.

The story begins... (V. 5-24) (read thru...)

1. **This is Herod the Great...** the first in the line of Herods (see slide).
2. **Division of Abijah...** The temple priesthood was organized into _____ divisions, with each division serving twice a year for one week (1 Chron. 24:4-19). Abijah’s was the 8th division.
3. **Daughters of Aaron...** Both Elizabeth & Zecharias were from priestly lineage. This highlights their interest in the affairs of the _____.
4. **The description of them as righteous in the sight of God does not mean they were sinless**, it just refers to their on-going, heart-felt observance of the law. “Blameless” & “Sinless” are _____ the same thing. Their lack of children is not because of sin, but their circumstances beautifully set the scene for the miraculous grace to come to them...
 - a. This teaches us that problems are prerequisites for miracles.
5. **Gabriel, the Angel chosen by God to deliver the news** (lit. “strong man of God”) both to Zecharias & Mary... Zecharias initially _____, which brings about God’s discipline.