

e-concepts

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Comments and Applications from Luke Chapter 1:1-4

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Luke and Acts are filled with historical detail. It actually makes them vulnerable in that so much of it can be checked by other sources. It also confirms the inerrancy of these works because there is not one error in any reference, even though it is packed with people, places, and events.

Commentary

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word (Luke 1:1-2). If Paul did not write Hebrews, Luke wrote more of the New Testament than any other author. **His two volumes (Luke and Acts) make up about 28 percent of the New Testament.**

Luke's gospel was not the first written, but it is unique in that it was written from his personal research rather than as an eyewitness of Jesus' life and ministry. Matthew and Mark were written in the 50s and Luke sometime between 58 and 60. Luke was a Gentile physician (Colossians 4:10-14) from Antioch (according to Eusebius and Jerome), and he seems to write primarily to Gentiles because there are many unique explanations, which Jews would not require (like, *Capernaum, a city of Galilee*).

Luke's name is not mentioned in either book, but tradition solidly ascribes him as the author. The only places where his name occurs in the New Testament are in Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; and Philemon 24. Luke does include himself personally with the pronoun *we* in the sections of Acts (16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16) where He seems to have joined Paul and Silas and Timothy on the second missionary journey. From then on, he seems to have stayed with, or very close to, Paul the rest of Paul's life. Most of Luke was probably written from Caesarea (or possibly Rome) while Paul was in prison there. Luke was with Paul until the end of his life (2 Timothy 4:11), but we do not know anything about Luke after the death of Paul.

It seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught (Luke 1:3-4). The stated purpose of Luke is to write out the life and ministry of Jesus Christ in chronological order and to make sure *Theophilus* knew *the exact truth about the things you have been taught*. **The apostles and their disciples evangelized by teaching, and they defined Christianity as the exact truth about the things which they taught.** This is no religion of fuzzy tolerance and emotional meetings. It is teaching about the truth of what actually happened in the real world. And among world religions, that is totally unique to Christianity.

So, unlike the other gospel writers, Luke states his method and purpose for writing.

- His method was historical research. He *investigated everything carefully from the beginning*.
- His purpose was two-fold:
 1. *To write it out ... in consecutive order*, and
 2. *That you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught*

And this was addressed to *Theophilus*, who we can speculate was a public official (because of the title *most excellent* Acts 23:26; 24:3; and 26:25) from Antioch (assuming Luke was from Antioch).

Theme

The life and ministry of Jesus, which focused on heavenly rewards and punishments (6:23). **The point is, you want to enter heaven with the scales balanced against you in this life, as if life owes you something.** God does not owe you anything because the Creator is not obligated to His creatures, but God is just and there is no justice in this life. So make sure you leave this life having given more than you received. If you give yourself all your rewards here, then you won't get any in heaven.

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