

## Luke - "The Perfect Man"

**From Whom:** This gospel is attributed to Luke, a physician and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke is believed to have been a Gentile, making him unique among the gospel writers. His profession as a physician is mentioned in Colossians 4:14, and his close association with Paul is evident in the "we" passages of Acts (16:10-17; 20:6; 21:18; 27:1; 28:16). Very little is known about Luke. He almost never included personal details about himself, and nothing definite is known about his background or his conversion.

**To Whom:** This gospel account is written for a gentile audience, focusing on salvation and explaining Jewish customs. Addressed to "most excellent Theophilus" who was likely a gentile convert or Roman official, the book provides an orderly, accurate account of Jesus' life.

**What/ Theme:** "Behold the Man" - Luke is a historical narrative, written in a very polished Greek style. Each gospel presents Jesus from a different viewpoint. Luke stresses the fact that Jesus was the perfect Man and focuses on the compassion of our Lord

**Where/ When:** The books of "Luke" and "Acts" appear to have been written at about the same time and by the same author – Luke first, then Acts. Many believe these books were written between AD 60 and 80. However, the book of Acts ends with Paul still in Rome, which leads to the conclusion that Luke wrote these books from Rome during Paul's imprisonment there (AD 60–62). Luke records Jesus' prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (19:42–44; 21:20–24) but makes no mention of the fulfillment of that prophecy, either here or in the book of Acts. In addition, Luke does not mention the great persecution of Nero in AD 64, nor the martyrdom of James in AD 62, leaving some to conclude Luke's works were completed before AD 62.

**Special Features:** Although Luke's gospel is one of the synoptic gospels, it contains many features omitted by Matthew and Mark.

- Luke gives us the songs of Christmas (1:46-56; 2:13-14).
- Luke has the longest account of the virgin birth of Jesus of any of the Gospels.
- Luke gives us 20 miracles, and 6 of them are recorded in no other Gospel.
- He likewise gives us 23 parables, and 18 of them are found nowhere else.
- He also gives us the very human account of the walk to Emmaus of our resurrected Lord. This proves that Jesus was still fully man after His resurrection.

**Interesting Perspective:** Some scholars suggest that Luke, one of Paul's closest friends, composed his gospel and the book of Acts, not only for the work of the Holy Spirit and through the power of the Holy Spirit, but also as a written legal brief to be presented in Paul's defense in Rome.

**Outline:****1. Birth of the Perfect Man and His family, Chapters 1-3**

- a. Announcement of the births of John and Jesus; the birth of John, Chapter 1
- b. Birth of Jesus; His reception; His circumcision; His journey to Jerusalem at twelve years of age, Chapter 2
- c. Ministry of John the Baptist; baptism of Jesus; genealogy of Mary, Chapter 3

**2. Testing of the Perfect Man; rejection by His hometown, Chapter 4** (“Tempted like as we are,” Hebrews 4:15)

- a. Temptation of Jesus, v. 1-13
- b. Jesus returns to Galilee and Nazareth; rejected by His hometown, v. 14-30 (Jesus quotes from Isaiah 61:1-2 in v. 18)
- c. Jesus moves His headquarters to Capernaum; continues His ministry, v. 31-44

**3. Ministry of the Perfect Man in area of Galilee, Chapters 5-9**

- a. Jesus calls disciples for the second time; cleanses lepers; heals man with palsy; calls Matthew; gives parables on new garment and wine skins, Chapter 5
- b. Jesus defends disciples for plucking grain on sabbath; heals paralyzed man on sabbath; chooses twelve; gives Sermon on the Plain, Chapter 6
- c. Jesus heals centurion’s servant; restores to life son of widow of Nain; commends John the Baptist; goes to dinner at Pharisee’s house; gives parable of two debtors, Chapter 7
- d. Jesus gives parables: sower, lighted candle, personal relationships; stills storm; casts out demons at Gadara; heals woman with issue of blood; restores to life daughter of Jairus, Chapter 8
- e. Jesus commissions and sends forth the twelve; feeds 5000; announces death and resurrection; transfigured; casts out demons from an only son; sets His face toward Jerusalem; puts down test for discipleship, Chapter 9

**4. Ministry of the Perfect Man on way to Jerusalem, Chapters 10-18**

- a. Jesus sends forth the seventy; pronounces judgment on Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum; gives parable of Good Samaritan; enters home of Mary and Martha, Chapter 10
- b. Jesus teaches disciples to pray by using parables of the persistent friend and a good father; accused of casting out demons by Beelzebub; gives parables -

unclean spirit leaving a man, sign of Jonah, lighted candle; denounces Pharisees, Chapter 11

- c. Jesus warns of leaven of Pharisees; gives parables of rich fool, return from wedding, testing of servants in light of coming of Christ; states He is a divider of men, Chapter 12
- d. Jesus teaches men not to judge but repent; gives parable of fig tree; heals woman with infirmity; gives parables of mustard seed and leaven; continues to teach as He goes toward Jerusalem; weeps over Jerusalem, Chapter 13
- e. Jesus goes to dinner at home of Pharisee; gives parables of impolite guests, the great supper, building a tower, king going to war, salt that loses its tang, Chapter 14
- f. Jesus gives parable of lost sheep, lost coin, two lost sons (prodigal son), Chapter 15 (The obedient Son is the One giving the parable.)
- g. Jesus gives parable about unjust steward; answers covetous Pharisees; speaks on divorce; recounts incident of rich man and Lazarus (poor man), Chapter 16
- h. Jesus instructs His disciples on forgiveness, faithful service; heals ten lepers (one Samaritan returns to give thanks); speaks on spiritual nature of kingdom and His coming again, Chapter 17
- i. Jesus gives two parables on prayer; blesses little children; confronts rich young ruler with five of Ten Commandments; heals blind man on entering Jericho, Chapter 18

## **5. Ministry of the Perfect Man in Jericho and Jerusalem, Chapters 19-21**

- a. Jesus enters Jericho and home of Zacchaeus; conversion of Zacchaeus; gives parable of ten pounds; enters Jerusalem; weeps over city; cleanses temple, Chapter 19
- b. Jesus' authority challenged; gives parable of vineyard; questioned about paying tribute to Caesar; silences Sadducees about resurrection; questions scribes, Chapter 20
- c. Jesus notes how people give, commends widow; answers question in Olivet Discourse, "When shall these things be?" Chapter 21

## **6. Betrayal, trial, and death of the Perfect Man, Chapters 22, 23 (Our Kinsman-Redeemer)**

- a. Judas plots with chief priests to betray Jesus; Jesus plans for last Passover and institutes Lord's Supper; announces His betrayal, position of apostles in future kingdom; Peter's denial; warns disciples of future; goes to Gethsemane; betrayed by Judas; arrested and led to high priest's house; denied by Peter; mocked, beaten, brought before Sanhedrin, Chapter 22
- b. Jesus brought before Pilate and Herod; Barabbas released; Jesus foretells destruction of Jerusalem and prays for His enemies; Jesus crucified; mocked by rulers, soldiers, one thief; other thief turns to Jesus and is accepted by Him; dismisses His spirit; placed in new tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea, Chapter 23

### 7. Resurrection of the Perfect Man, Chapter 24:1-48

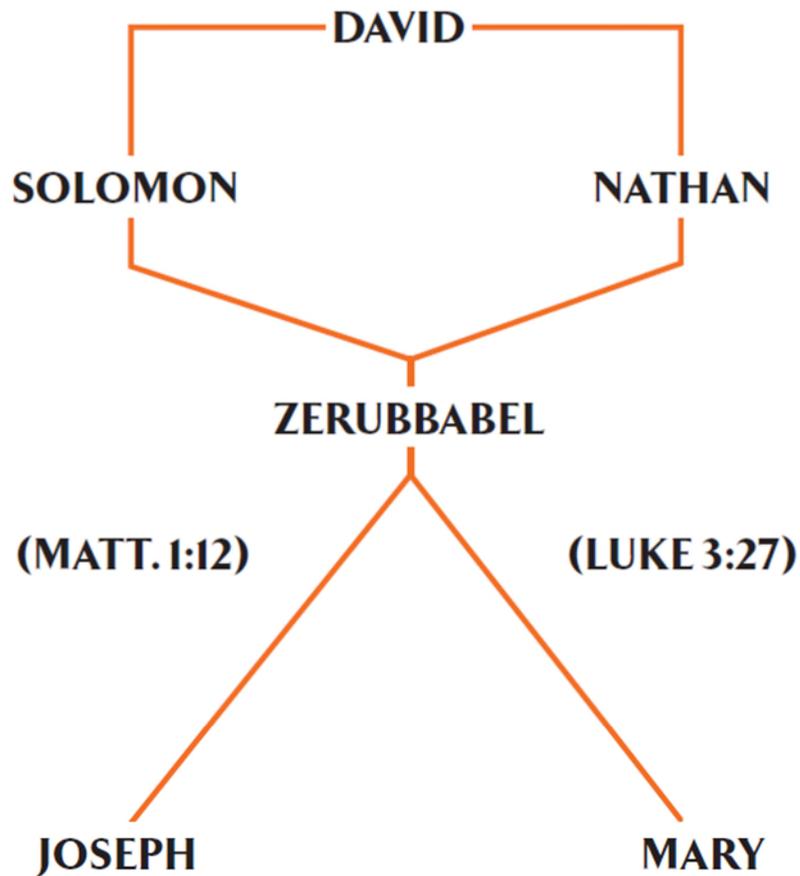
- a. Jesus raised from the dead; leaves Joseph's tomb, v. 1-12
- b. Jesus goes down road to Emmaus, reveals Himself to two disciples, v. 13-34
- c. Jesus goes to the assembled disciples, reveals Himself to the eleven; gives commission to go, v. 35-48 (He is still a man; emphasizes the importance of the Word of God)

### 8. Ascension of the Perfect Man, Chapter 24:49-53 (Jesus promises to send Holy Spirit; ascends to heaven in attitude of blessing His own)

LUKE AT A GLANCE				
Focus	Introduction Of The Son Of Man	Ministry Of The Son Of Man	Rejection Of The Son Of Man	Crucifixion And Resurrection Of the Son Of Man
Reference	1:1 ————— 4:14 ————— 9:51 ————— 19:28 ————— 24:53			
Division	Advent	Activities	Antagonism And Admonition	Application And Authentication
Topic	Seeking The Lost			Saving The Lost
	Miracles Prominent		Teaching Prominent	
Location	Israel	Galilee	Israel	Jerusalem
Time	c. 4 B.C.—A.D. 33			

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# ZERUBBABEL



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## CHRIST'S TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION

After His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus encountered the opposition of the priests, Sadducees, Pharisees, and scribes. Following His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, the three religious and three civil trials culminated in His crucifixion outside the city wall.

