

LUKE: Introduction

If Matthew gives us a bridge from the Old Testament and Mark gives us a compelling story, Luke gives us an in-depth report.

Luke, like Mark, was not a disciple; he likely never knew Jesus. Instead, he plays a role later in the New Testament as a missionary companion of Paul. Luke sets out to write an “orderly account” (Luke 1:3) of the life of Jesus, and his book—as well as its sequel, Acts—is clearly the result of thorough research and study.

Luke carefully follows the life of Jesus from birth to death to resurrection:

Luke 1:1–4:13 — Pre-Ministry

Luke 4:14–9:50 — Ministry in Galilee

Luke 9:51–19:27 — Traveling to Jerusalem

Luke 19:28–24:53 — Passion Week

Notice these unique characteristics as you read Luke:

- Beginning before the birth of John the Baptist and extending through the story of Acts, Luke gives the most **comprehensive** account. It is also the most **chronological** and ties events to **historical context**.
- Luke’s account is **concerned with the lowest in society**, showing Jesus’ care for people who were considered unimportant.
- Luke emphasizes the **Holy Spirit**.
- **Prayer** plays an important role in the book.