NEW TESTAMENT · GOSPELS · BOOK 42 OF 66

Luke

The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (19:10)

24	Longest	c. A.D. 60–80	Luke–Acts
Chapters, 1,151 Verses	of the Four Gospels	Date Written	One Story in Two Books

STRUCTURE

The Book in Six Parts



Each bar shows that part's share of the 1,151 verses.

I 1:1–2:52 · 132 verses

Prologue and Infancy

Two births foretold, four songs, the boy Jesus in the temple.

II 3:1–4:13 · 51 verses

Preparation

John the Baptist, the baptism, the family line, the temptation.

III 4:14–9:50 · 275 verses

Ministry in Galilee

Nazareth, the Twelve, the Sermon on the Plain, Peter's confession.

IV 9:51–19:27 · 407 verses

Journey to Jerusalem

Ten chapters found mostly only in Luke: parables of grace.

V 19:28–21:38 · 106 verses

Final Days in Jerusalem

The triumphal entry, debates in the temple, the Olivet discourse.

VI 22:1–24:53 · 180 verses

Passion and Resurrection

The Last Supper, the cross, the empty tomb, Emmaus, the ascension.

THE AUTHOR

Who Was Luke?

Luke, Paul's companion, wrote this Gospel and the book of Acts. Here is what the New Testament tells us about him.

COL. 4:14

"The Beloved Physician"

Paul sends greetings from "Luke, the beloved physician."

COL. 4:10–14

A Gentile

Paul lists him apart from the helpers "of the circumcision."

ACTS 16:10–17

"We" in Acts

The story shifts to "we" as Paul sails to Macedonia.

ACTS 20:5–21:18

To Jerusalem

"We" go with Paul on his last journey to Jerusalem.

ACTS 27:1–28:16

To Rome

"We" share the voyage and shipwreck on the way to Rome.

PHILEM. 24 · 2 TIM. 4:11

"Only Luke Is with Me"

Paul names "Lucas" among "my fellowlabourers," and Luke stays with him near the end of his life.

The "we" passages in Acts are Luke's own travel notes from his journeys with Paul.

LUKE AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 5

An Orderly Account, Four Songs and the Mission

CHAPTER 1:1–4

An Orderly Account

> *"It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed."*
>
> Luke 1:3–4 (KJV)

1
Eyewitnesses
"from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word" (1:2)

2
Careful Study
Luke traced "all things from the very first" (1:3)

3
In Order
He wrote an orderly account for Theophilus (1:3)

4
Certainty
So readers may "know the certainty" of what they were taught (1:4)

CHAPTERS 1–2

Four Songs of Praise

1:46–55 · THE MAGNIFICAT

Mary
"My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

1:68–79 · THE BENEDICTUS

Zacharias
"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people"

2:14 · GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The Angels
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

2:29–32 · THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Simeon
"Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace … For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation"

> *"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."*
>
> Luke 2:10 (KJV)

The Latin names come from the first words of each song in the old Latin Bible, as churches have sung them for centuries.

CHAPTER 4:16–21

Jesus' Mission at Nazareth

In the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus reads from Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me …" (4:18).

TO PREACH
the gospel to the poor

TO HEAL
the brokenhearted

TO PREACH
deliverance to the captives

TO GIVE
recovering of sight to the blind

TO SET
at liberty them that are bruised

TO PREACH
the acceptable year of the Lord

> *"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."*
>
> Luke 4:21 (KJV)

The hometown crowd first wonders at His words, then tries to cast Him down headlong from the brow of the hill (4:22–30).

LUKE AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 5

The Journey, the Parables and the Lost

CHAPTERS 9:51–19:27

The Long Road to Jerusalem

> *"He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem"*
>
> Luke 9:51 (KJV)

1 · 9:51
He Sets Out
His face set toward Jerusalem

2 · 10:38
A Village
Martha and Mary

3 · 13:22
Cities and Villages
"journeying toward Jerusalem"

4 · 17:11
Samaria and Galilee
Ten lepers cleansed

5 · 18:31
"We Go Up"
The cross foretold again

6 · 19:1
Jericho
Zacchaeus

7 · 19:28
Jerusalem
"ascending up to Jerusalem"

About a third of Luke tells of this journey. Much of it, including many parables, is found only in Luke.

FOUND ONLY IN LUKE

Eight Parables of Grace

7:41–43
The Two Debtors
Forgiven much, loves much

10:25–37
The Good Samaritan
"Go, and do thou likewise"

11:5–8
Friend at Midnight
Keep on asking

12:13–21
The Rich Fool
Barns full, soul unready

15:8–10
The Lost Piece of Silver
"Rejoice with me"

15:11–32
The Lost Son
"was lost, and is found"

16:19–31
Rich Man and Lazarus
A great gulf fixed

18:9–14
Pharisee and Publican
"God be merciful to me a sinner"

Other parables found only in Luke include the barren fig tree (13:6–9), the unjust steward (16:1–13) and the unjust judge (18:1–8).

CHAPTER 15

Lost and Found

Jesus told all three to Pharisees and scribes who murmured, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (15:2).

ONE SHEEP · 1 OF 100
The Shepherd
He leaves the ninety and nine in the wilderness.

"Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."

15:6

ONE COIN · 1 OF 10
The Woman
She lights a candle and sweeps the house.

"Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost."

15:9

ONE SON · 1 OF 2
The Father
He runs to meet the son who comes home.

"this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

15:24

> *"there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."*
>
> Luke 15:10 (KJV)

LUKE AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 5

People Jesus Welcomed and Jesus at Prayer

A SAVIOUR FOR ALL PEOPLE

People Jesus Welcomed

2:8–20
The Shepherds
First to hear the news

7:11–17
Widow of Nain
"Weep not"

7:36–50
A Sinful Woman
"she loved much"

8:1–3
Women Who Ministered
Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna

10:38–42
Mary of Bethany
"that good part"

17:11–19
A Samaritan Leper
The one who returned

19:1–10
Zacchaeus
"This day is salvation come to this house"

23:39–43
The Dying Thief
"with Me in paradise"

Luke gives special notice to the poor, women, Samaritans, publicans and outsiders, and to Gentiles (2:32).

A GOSPEL OF PRAYER

Jesus at Prayer

3:21 · AT HIS BAPTISM
"Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened"

5:16 · ALONE
"He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed"

6:12 · BEFORE CHOOSING THE TWELVE
"continued all night in prayer to God"

9:18 · BEFORE PETER'S CONFESSION
"as He was alone praying"

9:29 · AT THE TRANSFIGURATION
"as He prayed, the fashion of His countenance was altered"

11:1 · TEACHING HIS DISCIPLES
"Lord, teach us to pray"

22:32 · FOR PETER
"I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not"

22:42 · ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
"nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done"

23:34 · FOR THOSE WHO CRUCIFIED HIM
"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"

23:46 · HIS LAST WORDS
"Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit"

Most of these moments of prayer are told only by Luke. Jesus also tells two parables about prayer (11:5–8; 18:1–8).

Emmaus to Acts, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 24 AND ACTS 1

From Emmaus to the Ends of the Earth

> *"beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."*
>
> Luke 24:27 (KJV)

In Both Books

LUKE	ACTS
Written to Theophilus	**Written to Theophilus**
Luke 1:3	Acts 1:1
Wait for the promised power	**Wait for the promised power**
Luke 24:49	Acts 1:4–5, 8
Jesus carried up into heaven	**Jesus taken up into heaven**
Luke 24:50–51	Acts 1:9–11
The story moves from Galilee to Jerusalem	**The story moves from Jerusalem to Rome**
Luke 9:51	Acts 1:8; 28:16

> *"tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*
>
> Luke 24:49 (KJV)

Luke ends with the disciples praising God in the temple; Acts carries the story "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Saviour of All People
Good news for Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor.

2:10–11, 32

Seeking the Lost
Jesus goes looking for those who have strayed.

15:1–32; 19:10

Prayer
Jesus prays often and teaches His disciples to pray.

11:1–13; 18:1

The Holy Spirit
The Spirit fills John, Elisabeth, Jesus and, soon, the church.

1:15, 41; 4:18; 24:49

Joy and Praise
The story begins and ends with people praising God.

2:10, 20; 24:52–53

Riches and the Poor
A warning about wealth and care for the needy.

6:20–24; 12:15

KEY VERSE

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10 (KJV)