

Summary / background information of the book of Luke

Luke: Gospel to All

Author: Luke

Date: 61-62AD (Over 35 years after Christ went to the cross)

Reader: Newly converted, Roman Official named Theophilus. Also written to a larger Greek audience of the upper class of Rome. Most would have been well to do and literarily sophisticated. Secondly to people who need confirmation in their faiths.

Summary: Luke and Acts are actually one letter broken into two because it wouldn't all fit onto one scroll. Same author (Luke), writing to the same guy (Theophilus). Theophilus is believed to be a Roman Official, a man of power in the Roman Empire. Luke the doctor sits down and writes this massive letter (Luke & Acts) to one guy, Theophilus, so that he will know all about Christ and what He has done. Luke shows Theophilus that the Kingdom of God is available to everyone, and that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Most scholars believe that Theophilus was a new Christian, so Luke wanted to spell everything out to him and clearly show him who Jesus is.

Author: Luke is a gentile (Col 4:10-14) writing to a gentile (Theophilus). This is the only book in the NT written by a gentile. The gentile Luke, wrote 28% of the New Testament (Luke and acts) and that is more than either Paul or John. Luke is the largest gospel focusing on a gentile audience which makes this gospel vastly different from a gospel like Matthew.

Things to notice: Emphasis on "all" (women, Gentiles, poor, etc), the Gospel is for all people.

The son of man came to seek and save the Lost. – LK 19:10