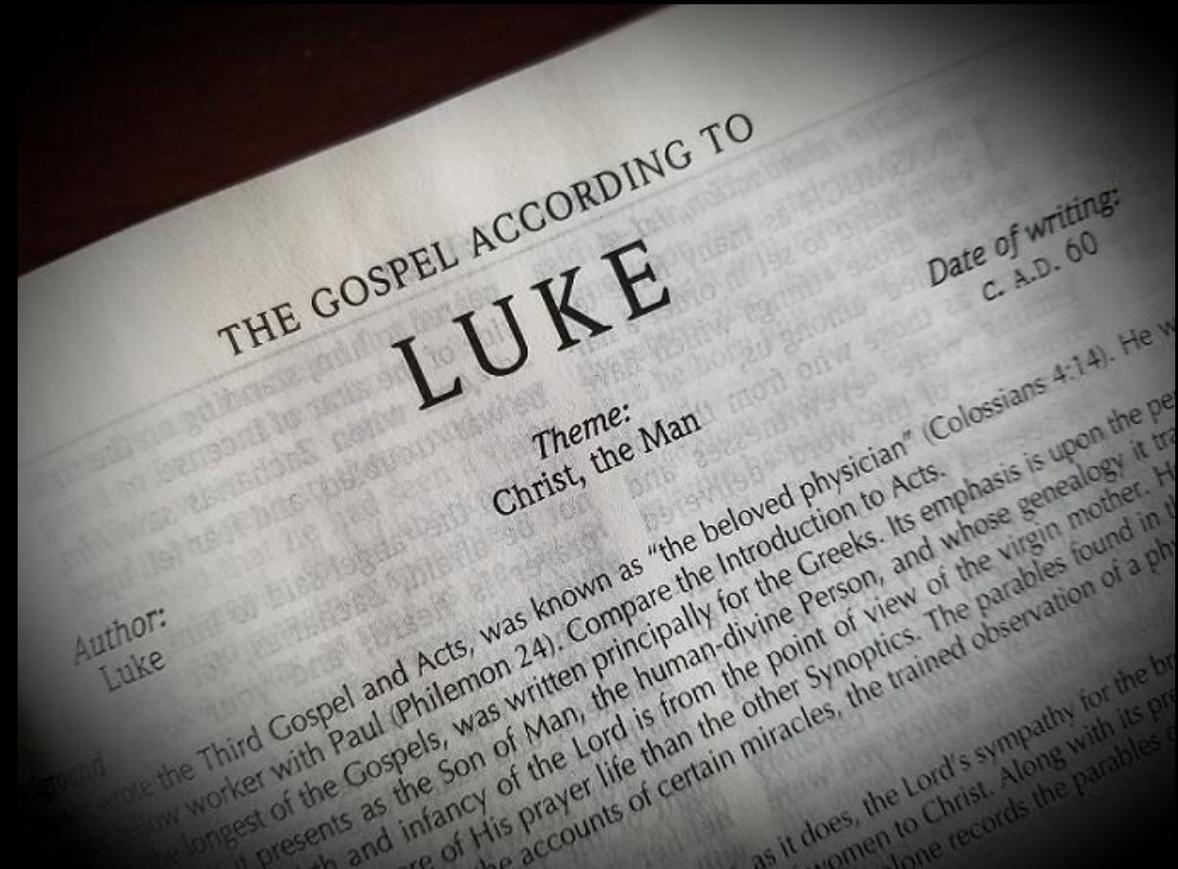


Verse by Verse

Luke 2



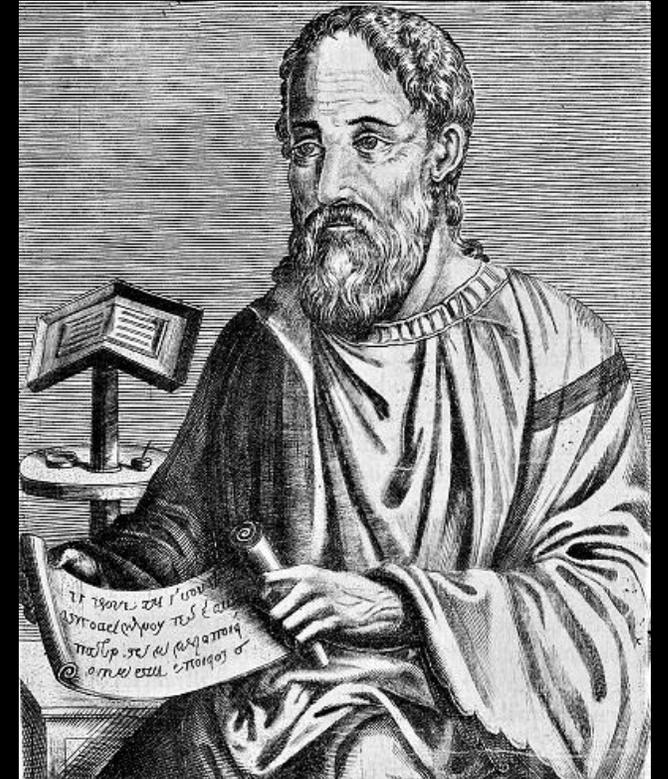
Luke 2 Introduction

Luke 2 Introduction

- The **Gospel of Luke** begins with the stories of two supernatural births – John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.
- We looked at the first last week, of John the Baptist.
- This week we take a look at Jesus.
- Luke relates these stories in all their parts as the retelling of a series of facts.

Luke 2 Introduction

*Luke was by race an Antiochian and by profession a physician. He long had been a companion of Paul and had more than a casual acquaintance with the rest of the apostles. He left for us, in two inspired books, examples of the art of healing souls that he obtained from them. These books are, namely, the Gospel [and] the Acts of the Apostles.*¹



Eusebius of Caesarea
(260 – 340)

Luke 2 Introduction

- Luke was a physician, but also a fine historian.
- He wrote about 30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus using research that he gathered before that.
- Anyone investigating events that happened 20 or 30 years earlier would still have access to many eyewitnesses.
- Luke took advantage of their stories, such as those we will read today.

Luke The Purpose of This Gospel

Luke The Purpose of This Gospel

Luke 1:3-4 (ESV)

³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke 2 Key Verses

Luke 2 Key Verses

- From the old man Simeon at the Temple,
- **Luke 2:29-32** (ESV)

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Luke 2 Outline

Luke 2 Outline

1. The Birth of Jesus Christ 2:1-7
2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21
3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38
4. The Return to Nazareth 2:39-40
5. Boy Jesus at the Temple 2:41-52

1. The Birth of Jesus Christ 2:1-7

1. The Birth of Jesus Christ 2:1-7

- Luke starts by setting the story in its historical context.
- He intended for his original readers to think back to a certain place and time.
- The names are historical people and we know censuses did happen in the Roman Empire, mainly for taxation purposes.
- While it is not easy to match Luke's account to other available records, there is no reason to doubt his accuracy.

1. The Birth of Jesus Christ 2:1-7

- A best guess for when **Luke** gathered this material is during the time that **Paul** was in prison in **Caesarea**.
- The **Book of Acts** has him there for **two years**.
- Luke was not imprisoned with Paul, so he would have been free to spend time with his sources.
- He likely sat and listened to Mary retell her story.

1. The Birth of Jesus Christ 2:1-7

- **Joseph**, being from the **family of David**, may have even been born in Bethlehem and so needed to go back there now.
- For **Mary** that is less clear, but the couple probably did not want to be separated so close to the time of Jesus' birth.

2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21

2. The Shepherds and Angels

2:8-21

The angelic announcement of “peace on earth” repeated so often at Christmastime is not about quiet tranquility or merely the absence of animosity between people. It is a declaration of the coming end of hostilities between a holy God and sinful humanity through the atoning work of the Messiah: peace with God. ²



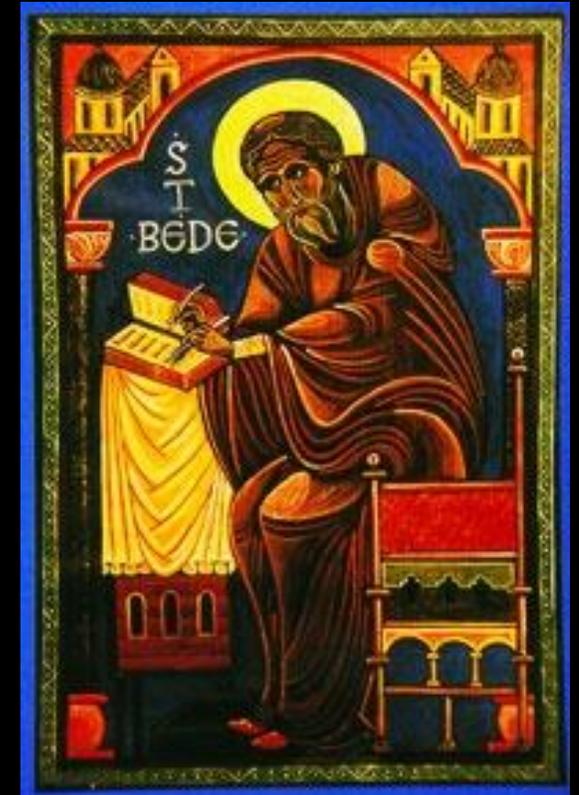
Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas

2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21

- In the [Talmud \(*Sanhedrin 25b*\)](#), it lists certain shepherds among those disqualified from bearing witness.
- Apparently during this period they were not considered a respectable crowd.
- These shepherds seem to be perfectly devout men, since they are eager to see what is going on in Bethlehem.
- They then spread the word to others.

2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21

The shepherds did not keep silent about the mysteries that they had come to know by divine influence. They told whomever they could. Spiritual shepherds [or “pastors”] in the church are appointed especially for this, that they may proclaim the mysteries of the word of God and that they may show to their listeners that the marvels which they have learned in the Scriptures are to be marveled at.³



Bede (672 – 735)

2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21

- I love what **Bede** said, because he focuses on the teaching of the word of God as the job of pastors in the church.
- Too many pastors want to do too many other things and sadly, sometimes the church is all too willing to encourage it.
- Some people want a celebrity, a psychologist, a motivational speaker, a political analyst, etc.
- Thanks for being content with a Bible teacher!

2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21

- 2:21 Both John the Baptist and Jesus were given their names before they were conceived in the womb.
- God already had plans for both of them and revealed these to their parents. He once told Jeremiah (in Jer. 1:5),
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21

- 2:21 This is meaningful to me since I would have been a great candidate for an abortion if that was legal at the time.
- But now let's move onto the temple in Jerusalem.

3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38

3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38

- **Mary and Joseph** are simply following the normal customs.
- It is remarkable that this man **Simeon**, who seems to be fairly old, meets them there and gives them this message.
- If that wasn't enough, a prophetess named **Anna**, also old, meets them and begins to tell others about Jesus.

3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38

- By the way, do you remember the fancy names of *Magnificat* of Mary and the *Benedictus* of Zechariah in **Luke 1**?
- Simeon's words have a fancy name, just like those.
- This passage is called the *Nunc dimittis* or "Now you let depart."

3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38

- The words also bear a strange similarity to **Isaiah 52:10-11a**.
- It is almost as if Simeon was meditating on these verses when the Spirit led him to the Temple to see Jesus in person.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

¹¹ Depart, depart, go out from there; ...

3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38

- Like Simeon, none of us is ready to depart this world until we have “seen Jesus” for who he really is.
- Jesus is the salvation that God has prepared for all people.

4. The Return to Nazareth 2:39-40

4. The Return to Nazareth 2:39-40

- This section really just reminds us that Jesus grew up like any normal boy at that time.
- That in itself is kind of amazing when we consider who he is.

5. Boy Jesus at the Temple 2:41-52

5. Boy Jesus at the Temple 2:41-52

- **2:41** If Christ's parents went up to Jerusalem every year for Passover, then it is likely that Jesus did too.
- That means he would have been familiar with the city, which was not all that big at that time. (Compare to Indianapolis.)
- **2:43-46** We might find it strange that Jesus' parents would lose track of their child.

5. Boy Jesus at the Temple 2:41-52

- 2:43-46 Travelling in a large group like this, there was a custom that the women and small children went first.
- Men and older boys followed behind, so they didn't walk too fast for the crowd. But Jesus was 12.
- Mary and Joseph could easily have thought Jesus was with the other since he was right at that borderline age.

5. Boy Jesus at the Temple 2:41-52

- 2:51-52 Again, however, Jesus grew up seeming not so obviously different from any other boy.
- Those things that were special or unique about him gave Mary a lot to think about over the years.
- She treasured them in her heart. See also 2:19.

Luke 2 What We Just Read

Luke 2 What We Just Read

1. The Birth of Jesus Christ 2:1-7
2. The Shepherds and Angels 2:8-21
3. Baby Jesus at the Temple 2:22-38
4. The Return to Nazareth 2:39-40
5. Boy Jesus at the Temple 2:41-52

Luke 2 Key Verses

Luke 2 Key Verses

- From the old man Simeon at the Temple,
- Luke 2:29-32 (ESV)

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Luke 2 Key Points

Luke 2 Key Points

1. Luke was a historian who got his facts from eyewitnesses, probably even including Mary, the mother of Christ.
2. God notified devout shepherds about the birth of Christ, even though they were not well respected people.
3. Godly people confirmed Christ's identity at the temple, even though they did not personally know Jesus.
4. Jesus grew up looking like any other boy in Nazareth, though his mother had a lot to think about at times.
5. Like Simeon, we are not ready to depart this world until we have "seen Jesus" for who he really is.

Luke The Purpose of This Gospel

Luke The Purpose of This Gospel

Luke 1:3-4 (ESV)

³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke 2 A Prayer

Luke 2 A Prayer

- Dear Father in Heaven,
- We thank you for the work that Luke the beloved physician did in order to help us, generations later, to be more certain about our faith. We thank you for his research, writing and faithfulness to Christ.
- Through these words that we have read today and even more as we continue to study this Gospel, inspired by the Spirit, we pray that you would reveal Christ to our hearts.

Luke 2 A Prayer

- Like Simeon, we want to see Jesus for who he really is. We want to know him as your salvation, through which you have rescued us from sin and its well-deserved punishment.
- Please Father, establish us in our faith, ground us in it.
- And like the shepherds or the prophetess Anna, use us to glorify your name before others.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

Luke 2 References

1. Arthur A. Just Jr., *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003, 2.
2. Evans, Tony. *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary*. B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition, Loc. 31639.
3. Just, *Ancient Commentary*, 42.