



Luke
(San Marco, Venice)

Luke's two-volume work

God's Spirit bringing about a new creation

1. through Jesus (Gospel)

2. through the Jesus' community (Acts)

The Gospel begins in Jewish Jerusalem

By the end of Acts the centre has moved to Gentile Rome

Luke the historian (1:1-4)

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first (or 'from above'), to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

Luke 2:9-12

An angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

Virgil (70-19BC) writes that shepherds heralded Augustus's birth. His birth was called 'good news' ('evangelion'.) Augustus the new born child is proclaimed saviour (soter) and lord (kyrios). He is seen as the bringer of a new age of peace. He is called the son of God. He shows exceptional qualities at the age of twelve, etc.

Suetonius (69-122AD) in his *Lives of the Caesars* says that there were prophecies, portents and prefigurements before the birth of Augustus. His was a miraculous conception. It took place in the context of worship at a temple. Upon his birth, Augustus was declared to be a King and a Ruler.

Jesus' agenda (Luke 4:16-21) **Nazareth**

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind [Isaiah 62:1-2].
to let the oppressed go free [Isaiah 58:6].**

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them? (Isaiah 58:6-7)

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Jesus calls disciples to share his mission (5:1-11)

‘Simon, put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch. Simon answered, Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.

The 'Sermon on the plain

Just as Moses brought down from the mountain the revelation which he had received from God, now Jesus with his apostles brings down the new law, the new covenant, the new word from God to 'a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people' who are eagerly waiting to touch him and to hear his healing word.

Luke 6:35-36

Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.
Your reward will be great,
and you will be children of the Most High;
for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 7:22-23

‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
the poor have good news brought to them.
And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

‘Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come ... and save you’. Then the
eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf
unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue
of the speechless sing for joy’ (Isaiah 35:4-6).

Luke 7:30

‘By refusing to be baptised by John, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves.’

Jeremiah 29:11-14

‘I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.

Then when you call upon me
and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

When you search for me, you will find me;
if you seek me with all your heart,
I will let you find me, says the Lord.’

Where there is love, there is God Luke 7:36-50

The 'sinful' woman and the Pharisee

- Focus on the woman - oblivious of everything except love
- Focus on the man - locked into observances & judgment
- Focus on Jesus - challenges the man
 - demands that the group choose
 - names her sin but loves her

Mark 6:45 - 8:26 not in Luke

1. Jesus walks on the water
2. Cures at Gennesaret
3. Traditions of the Pharisees
4. The Syro-Phoenician Woman
5. Healing the Deaf man
6. Second Account of Miracle of the loaves
7. The Pharisees fail to accept Jesus see Luke 11:16
8. The disciples still fail to understand see Luke 12:1
9. Healing the blind man

THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 9:51 – 19:40

Luke 9:51

‘When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.’

Luke 10:23-24

Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.’

Love Luke 10:25-28

‘Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.

‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

Jesus said to him, ‘What is written in the law?

What do you read there?’

He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart, and with all your soul,

and with all your strength, and with all your mind;

and your neighbour as yourself.’

And Jesus said to him, ‘You have given the right answer;

go on doing this and you will live.’

Luke 10:29

Wanting to justify himself. the lawyer asked Jesus,
“And who is my neighbour?”

Sirach 12:1-7

- 1- A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.
- 2- Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.
- 3- So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
- 3+ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.
- 2+ Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
- 1+ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise".

Attentive listening to God is essential for real love

Martha and Mary Luke 10:38-42

‘Martha was distracted by her many tasks;
so she came to him and asked, ‘Lord, do you not care
that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?
Tell her then to help me.’

The Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha,
you are worried and distracted by many things;
there is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better (‘good’?) part,
which will not be taken away from her.’