

LUKE: The Verified (Fact Checked) Account About Jesus



"1 Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. 2 They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. 3 Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, 4 so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught." Luke 1:1-4 NLT

- Have you ever wondered if the New Testament **accounts** about Jesus are **factual** and **accurate**?

Purpose: There are at least two purposes for the Gospel of Luke.

1. To provide a **verified ACCURATE account** of the life and teachings of Jesus (Luke 1:1-4).
2. To show that **Jesus was the perfect man qualified to be our SUBSTITUTE and Savior.**

Luke views Jesus as a man, a real human (who was also God). Jesus was **the perfect man**—a compassionate Savior and model for how to live. Luke emphasizes the humanity of Jesus by using the phrase **"son of man"** twenty-four times. It was also the favorite way Jesus referred to Himself.

Only a perfect man could be our substitute, that is, to take upon himself the guilt of our sin and provide the atonement (payment) for our forgiveness and salvation. *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:45 NLT The actions of Jesus proved that he was the *suffering servant* of **Isaiah 52-53**.

Why Is it Important to Understand Jesus' Perfect Humanity?

As a real and perfect human...

1. Jesus came to **our LEVEL** and **sympathizes with our struggles and pain** (cf. Heb. 4:15-16).
2. Jesus gives us a **GLIMPSE** of what we will be like in heaven when we are totally free from our sinful natures (cf. Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22).
3. Jesus was **QUALIFIED to be our substitute**. He was qualified to take our sins on himself, to suffer the judgment of God that belonged to us, to pay the price for our sins and to open the door for us to have a personal relationship with God. (cf. 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18).
4. Jesus provided the **PATTERN** or **model for how we should live**. The New Testament teaches that we should live as Jesus lived (1 Peter 2:21; Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 11:1).

Central Lesson:

Jesus is God who took on human form. Only a perfect human could be our substitute and take our sin and punishment.

Author: LUKE

From as far back as the second century, the early church leaders claim that Luke wrote both the third Gospel and the book of Acts, even though his name

is not mentioned in either book. Both books are written to an individual named **Theophilus**, perhaps a Roman official with a strong interest in Christianity. (Luke 1:3-4. Also compare Acts 1:1).

What do we know about Luke? Even though Luke wrote more than one-fourth (28%) of the New Testament (more than even the Apostle Paul who wrote 2,033 verses and Luke wrote 2,138 verses) we know less about him than any other New Testament writer. The Bible reveals:

- He was the traveling companion of the Apostle Paul indicated by the use of the word "we" in Acts (16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16).
- He was a physician (Colossians 4:14).
- He was faithful and supportive of Paul even when all others deserted him in jail. Paul wrote, *"Only Luke is with me"* (2 Timothy 4:11). He was with Paul from at least the time of Paul's Macedonian call (Acts 16:9-10) up to the time of Paul's martyrdom (2 Tim. 4:11).

Life Lesson: Luke's life teaches us about the importance of **faithfulness**. He served God and supported God's servants regardless of life's difficulties. *Do you give up in hard times? Do you want your life to be characterized by faithfulness?*

- Luke was a Gentile (Colossians 4:10-14) and is the only Gentile to author a book of the Bible.
- He was **not** one of the disciples or an eyewitness of Jesus. He makes a distinction between himself and those who were eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-2). He writes that he carefully investigated everything from the beginning (1:3) so there could be certainty about the facts (1:4).
- Tradition says that Luke was from Syrian Antioch, remained unmarried, and died at the age of eighty-four.

Date: About A.D. **60**.

Key Verses: Luke **1:1-4** and **19:10**

Key Chapter: Luke chapter **15**. Luke 15 amplifies the key verse of Jesus coming to seek and save the lost by presenting three stories where something lost is found: the parable of the lost **sheep** (15:1-7), the lost **coin** (15:8-10), and the lost **son** (15:11-32).

Key Words:

- **Savior, Saved, Salvation** (1:47, 69, 71, 77; 2:11, 30; 3:6; 7:50; 8:12; 13:23; 18:26; 19:9; 23:35). Mentioned 13 times in Luke. Matthew and Mark mention it only 4 times, John 6 times.
- **The Son of Man** (19:10; 5:24; 6:5, 22; 7:34; 9:22, 26, 44, 58; 11:30; 12:8, 10, 40; 17:22, 24, 26, 30; 18:8, 31; 21:27, 36).

Outline:

1. **The COMING** of the Son of Man (1:1-4:13).
2. **The MINISTRY** of the Son of Man (4:14-19:27).
3. **The DEATH** and Resurrection of the Son of Man (19:28-24:53).

Central Lesson:

Jesus is God who took on human form. Only a perfect human could be our substitute and take our sin and punishment.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.