

I. LUKE: PHYSICIAN, HISTORIAN.

- A. The writings of the early Church fathers affirm Luke's authorship. Luke wrote 2 books in the Bible: The book of Luke and the book of Acts. Luke and Acts are a 2 volume history of Christian beginnings. Luke is unique among the authors in the Bible because he is the only non-Jewish writer. He lived in Antioch, where the believers or disciples were first called "Christians."
- B. Luke is referred to as "the beloved physician" (Col 4:14). His writings show careful analytical and observational skills and writes in an educated, polished Greek style. It is fascinating that the Lord uses a doctor to report the miracles of Jesus. His writing shows intimate knowledge of Roman laws and customs, and geography. Luke draws on written sources (Acts 15:23-29; 23:26-30). He probably interviewed key figures such as Peter, John, and others.
- C. Luke was not an apostle himself, so he was dependent on others close to him. Luke traveled with Paul on ministry trips as is suggested by the use of "we" in various passages (e.g. Acts 16:10).
1. Luke may have written the book of Luke during Paul's 2 year stay in Caesarea until he was shipped to Rome. Paul was there another 2 years during which Luke may have had time to write the book of Acts. Historical evidence seems to point to Paul being acquitted at his first trial in Rome. Tradition says that he was later re-arrested and beheaded.
 2. The Bible is not necessarily a dictation of God's word (as in Rev. 2:1, 8, 12). The words were fully the words of the individual writers, but there were "exactly what God wanted them to be, so that when they actually came to the point of putting pen to paper, the words were fully their own words but also fully the words that God wanted them to write, words that God would also claim as his own."
(*Systematic Theology*. Wayne Grudem, pg. 81).

2 Tim. 3:16, 17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Pet. 3:15, 16 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

II. THEOPHILUS: LOVER OF GOD

- A. Theophilus (lit. "Lover of God"). The name may be a general term for a believer or someone interested in finding out more about God. He is referred to by the title "most excellent" or "Your Excellency." This title was used for Festus and Felix in the book of Acts. He may have a Roman official of some importance. Some suggest that Theophilus was a lawyer or a judge.

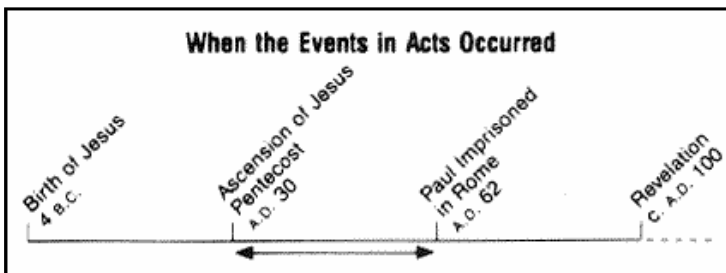
Luke 1:1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus..

Acts 1:1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach..

- B. One theory is that Theophilus was Paul's defense attorney or his judge for his trial at Rome and Luke was collecting material and compiling it into the books of Luke and Acts. A lawyer would require first-hand testimony, eyewitness accounts, and researched facts, which Luke provides in his writings.
- C. Peter is the main character in the first 12 chapters. Paul's ministry dominates the rest of the book of Acts chapters 13-28. Paul's testimony is given three times in the book of Acts, recounting all of Paul's previous trials. The book ends with Paul awaiting trial.

Acts at a Glance¹

FOCUS	WITNESS IN JERUSALEM		WITNESS IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA	WITNESS TO THE END OF THE EARTH	
REFERENCE	1:1 ———	3:1 ———	8:5 ———	13:1 ———	21:17 –28:31
DIVISION	POWER OF THE CHURCH	PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH	EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH	PAUL'S THREE JOURNEYS	PAUL'S TRIALS
TOPIC	JEWS		SAMARITANS	GENTILES	
	PETER		PHILIP	PAUL	
LOCATION	JERUSALEM		JUDEA AND SAMARIA	UTTERMOST PART	
TIME	2 YEARS (A.D. 33–35)		13 YEARS (A.D. 35–48)	14 YEARS (A.D. 48–62)	



¹Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). *Nelson's complete book of Bible maps & charts : Old and New Testaments*. "Completely revised and updated comfort print edition"; Includes indexes. (Rev. and updated ed.). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson.