

Luke 1:1-4**11-20-05*****“Dedicated to Theophilus!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Growing up**, we had a family physician who also was a close friend of the family, “*Dr. McDonald.*”
 - 1.1.1. He was elderly man with a very dignified countenance, & was never w/o his signature “*Bow Tie!*”
 - 1.1.2. **Most importantly he had the compassion & warmth** of a true family doctor.
 - 1.1.3. In Col.4:14 we learn Luke’s occupation, “**Luke the beloved physician**”.
 - 1.1.4. Throughout his letter we will also see his **warmth & compassion** as a doctor. [And he repeatedly stresses the **warmth & compassion** of Jesus]
- 1.2. (At Pastors Prayer) Armando prayed for me, “*that as Brian studies this gospel, that this gospel would study Brian!*” (my prayer for all of us!)
- 1.3. **Book Overview:** Lk.1& 2 = **30 yrs** of Jesus’ life; Lk.3 - 19:28 = **3 yrs** of Jesus’ life; Lk.19:29 - 24:53 = **1 week** of Jesus’ life.
 - 1.3.1. Only **8%** deals with Jesus life before ministry
 - 1.3.2. **25%** deals with His last week before He died.
 - 1.3.3. It is the longest single book in the NT.
 - 1.3.3.1. Luke & Acts constitute 28% of the NT, making Luke the most prolific of its contributors. [2,138 vs; Paul wrote 2,033]
 - 1.3.4. It is written in the **moist refined Greek** in the NT, giving it unsurpassed literary **richness & beauty!**
 - 1.3.5. It contains **4 beautiful hymns:** *Mary’s Magnificat* (the true *Ave Maria*); *Zacharius’ Benedictus*; the *Gloria in Excelsis* of the heavenly host; & the *Nunc Dimittis* of Simeon[“*now dismiss*”, “Im ready to be called home now”]
 - 1.3.6. **Key Word:** Jesus the Son of Man.
 - 1.3.7. **Key Verse:** 1:3,4 & 19:10 “**for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”
 - 1.3.7.1. So not only Jews but Samaritans & Gentiles; poor & rich; respectable & despised; tax collectors & religious leaders.
 - 1.3.8. **Key Chapter:** Ch.15 captures in 3 parables, the **lost sheep/coin/son** is the crux of the gospel; that God through Christ has come to seek & save that which was lost.
 - 1.3.9. **Those who believe** His claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship – **Those who oppose** will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross.¹

¹ Talk Thru the Bible; Hendrickson; Pg.326.

- 1.4. **Luke:** A physician; prob. a Greek; a companion of Paul on some of his journeys. He writes as a Christian historian.
- 1.4.1. He wrote 2 volumes which go together like 1 volume dealing w/the **beginning & growth** of the **early church**. – See **Acts 1:1**.
- 1.4.2. **They are records of journeys:** His Travelogue!
The **Gospel of Luke** (**Jesus** journeys to Jerusalem);
And **Acts**{*Luke part 2, or the Sequel!*} (**Paul's** journey to Rome)
- 1.4.3. He writes with the **Greeks** in mind – thus he translates the **Aramaic** terms, & explains **Jewish** customs & geography.
- 1.4.3.1. Thus he traces Jesus genealogy back, **not to Abraham** [Father of the Jews](Mt.), **but back to Adam** [father of all mankind]
- 1.4.4. Legend says Luke was an **artist** (J.B.Phillips Into) - If so, he takes his brush & paints the portrait of a **warm & compassionate** Master, who loves the **sinner**, the **outcast**, the **ragamuffins** of this world!
- 1.4.5. An **Ancient tradition** says that Luke was from Syrian Antioch, remained unmarried, & died at the age of 84.
- 1.4.6. **You can tell Luke loves people:** by the portraits of Zacharias, the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the repentant tax collector Zaccheus, the 2 disciples on the Emmaus rd.
- 1.4.7. **He gave a special place to women in his writings:** “Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, Martha & Mary, Bernice, Candace, Damaris, Dorcas, Drusilla, Joanna, Lydia, Priscilla, Sapphira, & Susanna.”
- 1.4.8. **He gave a special place to children in his writings:** e.g. the childhood of John & Jesus.

2. **DEDICATED TO THEOPHILUS! (1-4)**

- 2.1. **SOURCES OF INFORMATION!** (1,2)
- 2.2. **Many others have written also** – Though not in any way complete accounts. Only on a few aspects of the gospel.
- 2.3. **Eyewitnesses & ministers**—**To what?** He presents Jesus as **the Son of Man**.
- 2.3.1. **Jesus, the most human of us all!** – See, our humanity isn't a liability it's an asset!
- 2.3.2. Let me quote from Rebecca Pippert, Out of the Salt Shaker, “**Jesus** gives us permission to be human. Yet we struggle to believe that God intends for us to be fully human...we're afraid that being made of flesh & blood meets with **divine disapproval**. The fact that we love to laugh, take a walk w/a friend, sip tea, & read a good book for the sheer pleasure of it is probably regarded from on high, we fear, w/a **cosmic frown**. We forget that it was God's idea, not ours, to make us human. How do we discover what it means to be authentically human? We look to Jesus.” [He is irresistible!]

- 2.4. **THE PURPOSE IN WRITING!** (3)
- 2.5. **Had perfect understanding** – Accurately followed. Carefully investigated.
- 2.5.1. He establishes his credibility as a **historian**.
He reveals his **care & expertise**.
- 2.5.2. Investigative Bible Study –
- 2.5.3. **Q: Where’s the Holy Spirit in all this Luke?**
- 2.5.4. **Read** Heb.1:1,2
- 2.5.4.1. “**In many ways**” – ways God spoke to his servants!
- 2.5.5. **Sometimes God used:** direct oracles/dictation (i.e. “**To the angel of the church in Ephesus write...**”). - Other times ordinary historical research(as in the case of Luke) - **Still other times he used Q & A;** allegory’s acted out; preaching; signs.
- 2.5.6. To **Moses** @ Sinai in **thunder & lightening** & w/the voice of **thunder**. To **Elijah** in a **still small voice**. To **Ezekiel** by **visions**. To **Daniel** by **dreams**. To **Abram** in **human form**. To **Jacob** as an **angel**.²
- 2.5.7. Jesus speaks of men who remember His words & deeds that would be made completely accurate by the **Holy Spirit** as he brought things to their remembrance → Jn.14:25, 26 “**These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**”
- 2.5.7.1. **Jesus also said in** Jn.15:20 “**If they kept my word, they will keep yours also.**”
- 2.5.7.2. Prov.30:5 “**Every word of God is pure**” (flawless, tested, proves true)
- 2.5.8. **Since God spoke so clearly it caused men & women to live on a higher plane.**
- 2.5.8.1. **Abraham** had the faith to sacrifice his son; **Moses** to w/stand Pharaoh; **David** to go against Goliath; & **Daniel** to achieve & maintain integrity in Babylon!
- 2.5.9. **Yet Gods communication to man was still fragmented & lacking... until he spoke by His Son!**
- 2.5.10. **So Luke wrote his gospel under the inspiration of the H.S. after he had carefully researched the life of Jesus Christ!**³
- 2.5.10.1. **From the very 1st** – also translated “*from above*”.
- 2.6. **Orderly account** – He wanted to give an accurate & authoritative account of the birth, life, teaching, death, & resurrection of Jesus.

² Kent Hughes; pg.21

³ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines; Luke Intro.

- 2.7. **Theophilus** – [Θεόφιλος [*Theophilos*] – God/friend {*friend of God*}
- 2.7.1. Both of Luke’s books are addressed to Theophilus.
- 2.7.2. Probably a **Roman** believer. Possibly an **official** (most excellent) who needed grounding in the faith.
- 2.7.2.1. Or, may have been an **open-minded seeker**.
- 2.7.2.2. Maybe struggling w/his association in a movement that had Jewish origins.
- 2.8. **A TRUTHFUL RECORD!** (4)
- 2.9. **Certainty** – Luke wrote so Theophilus would know the **truth & certainty** of the Christian Gospel! (for you too!)
- 2.9.1. Though we live in a world where **relativism** is pushed & **absolutes** have been shelved, **yet** we still need more than ever “**Certainty**”!
- 2.9.2. It’s so important to know **What** we believe, & **Why** we believe them!
- 2.10. “A man who lived on Long Island was able one day to satisfy a lifelong ambition by purchasing for himself a very fine **barometer**. When the instrument arrived at his home, he as extremely disappointed to find that the indicating needle appeared to be stuck, pointing to the sector marked ‘**HURRICANE.**’ After shaking the barometer very vigorously several times, its new owner sat down and wrote a scorching letter to the store from which he had purchased the instrument. The following morning on the way to his office in New York, he mailed the letter. That evening he returned to Long Island to find not only the barometer missing, but his house also. The barometer’s needle had been right--there was a hurricane!”⁴
- 2.11. **Jumping at conclusions** is not ½ a good exercise as **digging for facts!**
- 2.12. **Facts** do not cease to exist because they are ignored.
- 2.13. **Instructed** – this Gk. word gives us our word “*catechize*” [to instruct orally]
- 2.13.1. So Theophilus may have been a “*Catechumen*” [1 receive relig instruct]
- 2.14. **Luke**: A close observer, excellent writer, painstaking historian, self-effacing chronicler, well trained physician, earnest Christian worker, & faithful friend.
- 2.14.1. **Q: What** are you pouring yourself into at this time in order to have good answers, reasons, explanations?
- 2.14.2. **Q: Who** are you pouring yourself into. Who is your Theophilus?

⁴Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.