



---

## Investigating the Word of God

---

# Luke



*Garden Tomb in Jerusalem at Gordon's Calvary*

© David Padfield, 1996. Used by Permission.

## Gene Taylor

© Gene Taylor, 2006. All Rights Reserved

---

# An Introduction to the Gospel of Luke

## The Author

Of all Biblical writers, Luke was probably the only Gentile. Thought to have been converted at Antioch, Luke was a well-trained Greek. He is referred to in Colossians 4:14 as “the beloved physician.”

Not satisfied with the partial accounts which were circulating about the life and work of Jesus, Luke determined to write an orderly, detailed account of the facts believed by the early Christians.

He also wrote the book of Acts. The “we” and “they” passages in that book indicate that Luke was often present with the apostle Paul in his travels. He joined Paul at Troas (16:10). He remained at Philippi when Paul traveled on (18:22). He was later found in Asia Minor (19:1-41). He rejoined Paul at a later time and accompanied him to Jerusalem. He was with Paul in Rome at the close of Paul’s life (2 Timothy 4:11).

## The Message of the Book

The purpose of the book of Luke is stated in 1:4. Even though the original design of it was to confirm to an individual, Theophilus, the facts about Jesus, surely Luke knew that his book was intended for a much larger audience.

Luke presents the humanity of Jesus—that He was a blending of the Son of Man with the Son of God. He demonstrates Christ to be the perfect man but does not minimize His deity.

## Some Exclusive Things in the Book

Of the three synoptic writers (Matthew, Mark and Luke), Luke has the most distinctive material. Over fifty percent of its content is exclusive whereas Matthew has about forty percent and Mark only ten.

**Parables.** The two debtors (7:41-43); the good Samaritan (10:25-37); the friend at midnight (11:5-8); the rich fool (12:16-21); the watchful servants (12:35-48); the barren fig tree (13:6-9); the chief seats at the wedding feast (14:7-11); the great supper (14:15-24); the builder who did not finish (14:28-30); the king who sought counsel (14:31-32); the lost coin (15:8-10); the prodigal son (15:11-32); the clever steward (16:1-13); the unprofitable servants (17:7-10); the widow and the judge (18:1-8); the Pharisee and publican (18:9-14); and the servants and the pounds (19:11-27).

**Miracles.** The catch of fish (5:1-11); the raising of the widow’s son at Nain (7:11-18); the healing of the woman with an 18 year old spirit of infirmity (13:10-17); the healing of a man who had dropsy (14:1-6); the cleansing of the ten lepers (17:11-19); and the restoration of Malchus’ ear which had been cut off by Peter (22:50-51).

### **Special Considerations in the Book**

The Holy Spirit is stressed in the book of Luke. John the Baptist, Mary, Zacharias, Elizabeth, Simeon and the apostles are all empowered by the Holy Spirit. Luke also emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus.

Certain classes of people receive special attention in Luke. Women, mentioned some 43 times in the book, children, and the poor and oppressed are but a few of the classes of people which are emphasized.

The prayer life of Jesus is also emphasized in this gospel. This is not surprising since it is a mark of that which is stressed by Luke—the humanity of Jesus. Jesus is shown to be praying or in prayer at least thirteen times.

# Luke Chapter One

## Keys to This Chapter

### Key Passage: Verse 35

“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

### Key People

Theophilus  
Herod  
Zacharias  
Abijah  
Aaron  
Elizabeth  
Gabriel  
Elijah  
John  
Joseph  
Mary  
Jesus

### Key Places

Nazareth  
Judea

### Key Words

Narrative  
Eyewitnesses  
Priest  
Angel  
Vision  
Reign  
Redeemed  
Oath  
Manifestation

### Key Lesson

## Questions on the Text

1. To whom was this book addressed?
2. According to verse five, when did the events in this chapter take place?
3. According to verse six, what kind of people were Zacharias and Elizabeth?
4. What did the angel tell Zacharias and Elizabeth to name the child to be born to them? According to verse 17, what was prophesied that their child would do?
5. After Gabriel’s visit, what was Zacharias unable to do?
6. Who did Gabriel visit in the city of Nazareth? What did he tell them?
7. According to verses 32 and 33, what was Mary’s child to do?
8. After the angel’s visit, who did Mary go to see? What happened when Mary arrived there?
9. When their son was born to Zacharias and Elizabeth, what did the people want to name him? What was he named instead? Why was he given that name?
10. Who, according to verse 67, Zacharias to prophesy?
11. According to verse 76, what was the child to be called? What was he to do?

## Matching

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Zacharias | A. Betrothed to Mary.   |
| _____ 2. Elizabeth | B. Was in the desert to the day of his manifestation to Israel. |
| _____ 3. Mary      | C. Of the division of Abijah.                                   |
| _____ 4. Joseph    | D. Would give birth to the Son of God.                          |
| _____ 5. John      | E. Of the daughters of Aaron.                                   |

## True - False

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Zecharias’ duty as a priest was to burn incense in the temple.     |
| T | F | 2. Zecharias and Elizabeth were very young when their son was born.   |
| T | F | 3. The Son of Mary was to sit on the throne of His father Abraham.    |
| T | F | 4. During her pregnancy, Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. |

## Discussion Question

According to verse 15, John was to be great in the sight of the Lord and drink neither wine nor strong drink. How are those two things related? If one is going to be great in the sight of the Lord today, can he drink wine or strong drink? Explain.