

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**LUKE 1****Luke 1**

The Gospel according to Luke is a detailed account of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke, the divine sequel, the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, and that, I believe, also served as the amanuensis of the Apostle Paul in writing the Book of Hebrews. Luke is the only non-Jewish writer in the Old or New Testaments. We encounter him first in the ancient city of Troy (Biblical Troas) on Paul's second missionary journey.

They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis...(Acts 16:6-11)

If you will notice, "**they**" is used all the way through the Book of Acts until you reach Acts 16:10, where "**they**" becomes "**we**." This is where Luke, who, more than likely, became a follower of Jesus through the preaching of the Apostle Paul at Troas. Luke was a physician, and from Acts 16 onward, became the personal physician for the rest of his days. In the epistles/letters of the beloved apostle, we will examine why Paul needed a physician constantly with him whenever possible.

Luke openly states at the beginning of his gospel account that he was not an eyewitness but researched the historicity of the accounts from those who were eyewitnesses to the life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)

Luke, being a trained physician, emphasizes the humanity of Jesus more than any other gospel writer. Luke is the only gospel writer that deals in great detail with the events surrounding the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. He also stresses the events that showed Jesus and his humanity in experiencing human emotions and all that entails.

Luke records the birth announcement and the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah. The announcement of Gabriel to Mary in Nazareth of being chosen as the "handmaiden of the LORD" to bear the Messiah. Down through the centuries, the Gospel of Luke has been a favorite of those who sought to know the detailed account of the anointed one who came to earth to save us from our sins.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, I praise You for the Gospel of Luke. Please help me to be faithful to read through the entire book in the coming days, especially those chapters that are emphasized. Amen