

# Chapter 6 - Luke

# The Author

- ❑ The book is written by Luke
  - ❑ Book is anonymous, but attributed to Luke
  - ❑ Luke is deduced as the author because he is the only one of Paul's traveling companions mentioned in the epistles who could have written the "we" sections of Acts. Luke is only mentioned three times in the NT (Col. 4:14, Philemon 24, 2 Tim 4:11)
  - ❑ Early church tradition confirms Lucan authorship.
  - ❑ Luke was probably a gentile.

# The Author

- ❑ Background on Luke the man
  - ❑ Luke is a “Greek” name
  - ❑ Luke writes with elegant Greek style.
    - ❑ This connects the book of Luke, with Acts
  - ❑ Paul calls Luke the beloved Physician (Col 4:14, and Luke frequently uses medical terms (Luke 14:1-6)
  - ❑ Luke is listed separately from the “circumcision” in Col. 4:10-14

# The Date

- ❑ Before AD 64
- ❑ Acts ends with Paul awaiting trial in Rome, which would place Acts about AD 64-67
- ❑ The gospel of Luke would therefore be written before this time.

# The Audience

- Greco-Roman world at large

  - Gentiles

    - The genealogy of Jesus goes back to Adam (3:38)

    - The dates in the book refer to Roman leaders (2:2, 3:1)

  - Samaritans

    - Parable of the good Samaritan (10:29-37)

    - One Samaritan Leper is healed (17:11-19)

# The Audience

## Social outcasts

- The immoral woman (7:36)

- The Prodigal son (19:11)

## The Poor

- The poor are invited to the banquet (14:12-13)

- Parable of the rich fool (12:13-21)

## Women

- Mary and Martha (10:38-42)

- Women who watched the crucifixion (23:49)

# The Style

- ❑ Luke is the longest book in the NT.
  - ❑ If you combine Luke and Acts then Luke wrote more of the NT than any other author, including Paul.
  - ❑ Luke and Acts comprises 28% of the NT.
- ❑ Luke is written in the most elegant style of Greek. One scholar calls Luke the most beautiful book in the world!
- ❑ Luke refers to Jesus as “the Lord”

# The Style

□ Special contributions of Luke to Jesus life include:

□ The nativity of Jesus

□ The birth of John the Baptist

□ The hymns surrounding the nativity of Jesus

□ The last journey to Jerusalem, some of the most famous parables

□ Only Luke recounts the ascension of Jesus!!!  
(ACTS)

# Themes

## Prayer

- Luke records 9 times that Jesus prayed (only seven in Luke)

- (3:21, 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 9:28-29, 10:21, 11:1, 22:39-46, 23:34,46, 11:5-13, 18:1-8)

## The Holy Spirit

- Jesus' life is linked with the Holy Spirit in a number of ways

- Birth, Baptism, temptation, several miracles)

# Themes

## ☐ Salvation

- ☐ Almost alone among the 4 gospels Luke uses the word salvation
  - ☐ He calls Jesus savior twice
  - ☐ Uses the verb to save more than any other book in the NT

## ☐ Song and Joy

- ☐ We have the songs of Mary (1:46-55), Zechariah (1:68-79), and Simeon (2:29-32).
- ☐ Luke uses the noun and verb for “joy” more than any other NT book (1:47, 2:10, 24:52)

# The Purpose

□ Key Verse: Luke 2:10-11

□ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord

□ Notice the themes: joy, all the people, Savior, Lord.