

## 1 **Luke: Narrative, Fulfilment, and Witness**

### **Lecture 1**

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## 2 **Introduction: 'So that you may know the certainty'**

(Luke 1:1-4)

## 3 **Outline of series**

- Lecture 1: Introduction 'So that you may know the certainty' (Luke 1:1-4)
- Lecture 2: 'A light for revelation to the Gentiles' (Luke 2:22-40)
- Lecture 3: 'That is why I was sent' (Luke 4:14-44)
- Lecture 4: 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost' (Luke 19:1-10)
- Lecture 5: 'You are witnesses of these things' (Luke 24:1-53)

## 4 **Outline of lecture**

- Why study the Gospel According to Luke?
- What does Luke think he is doing?
- A 'missional reading' of Luke's Gospel
- Selected features and themes
  - Narrative
  - Fulfilment
  - Witness

## 5 **Why study the**

### **Gospel According to Luke? (1)**

- A significant contribution to the New Testament
  - 'Of the 7,947 verses in the NT, Luke-Acts comprises 2,157 verses, or 27.1 percent. By comparison, the Pauline letters have 2,032 verses and the Johannine writings have 1,407. In addition, only Luke-Acts tells the story of Jesus Christ from his birth through the beginning of the church into the ministry of Paul.'
  - Darrell Bock, *A Theology of Luke and Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012), 27

## 6 **Why study the**

### **Gospel According to Luke? (2)**

- A careful historian and theologian:
- 'Luke is a sensitive observer of the events he describes. He is interested in both history and theology. He writes not just about the time sequence of events and teaching, but about their topical and theological relationship as well. He writes as a theologian and pastor, but as one whose direction is marked out by the history that preceded him. To underemphasize any element in the Lucan effort, whether pastoral, theological, or historical, is to underestimate the depth of his account.'
- Darrell Bock, *A Theology of Luke and Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012), 44.

## 7 **Who was Luke? (1)**

- Work is technically anonymous, BUT ...
- Title added in early manuscripts (see image from Sinaiticus [mid-4<sup>th</sup> century; 300s],  
<http://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en/manuscript.aspx?dir=prev&folioNo=5&lid=en&quire>)

[No=77&side=v&zoomSlider=0](#)

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9  **Who was Luke? (2)**

- External evidence
  - Muratorian Canon, Irenaeus, Eusebius
- Internal evidence
  - 'We passages' in Acts (16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16)
- Philemon 24; Colossians 4:14.

10  **What does Luke think he is doing?**

1 Many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled<sup>[a]</sup> among us, <sup>2</sup> just as the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed them down to us. <sup>3</sup> It also seemed good to me, since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things about which you have been instructed.<sup>[b]</sup>

- [1:1](#) Or *events that have been accomplished, or events most surely believed*
- [1:4](#) Or *informed*
- (CSB) The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

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11  **What does Luke think he is doing?**

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

- [English Standard Version](#) (ESV) The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by [Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.](#)

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12  **What does Luke think he is doing?**

- Luke provides unique insight by telling his readers! (Luke 1:1-4)
  - Building on the work of others
  - Engaging in careful primary research
  - Presenting an orderly narrative
  - Instructing Theophilus in the faith

13  **What does Luke think he is doing?**

Many have undertaken  
to compile a narrative  
about the events that have been fulfilled among us,  
<sup>2</sup> just as  
the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word  
handed them down to us.

<sup>3</sup> It also seemed good to me,

since I have carefully investigated everything  
 from the very first,  
 to write to you in an orderly sequence,  
 most honorable Theophilus,  
<sup>4</sup> so that  
 you may know the certainty of the things  
 about which you have been instructed.

14  **A 'missional reading' of Luke's Gospel**

- It is important to read any biblical document according to the intention of the author, as far as we can discover it.
  - Statement by I Howard Marshall, *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004), 34-35 (next slide).

15  **A 'missional reading' of Luke's Gospel**

- 'New Testament theology is essentially missionary theology. By this I mean that the documents came into being as the result of a two-part mission[:] first, the mission of Jesus sent by God to inaugurate his kingdom with the blessings that it brings to people and to call people to respond to it, and then the mission of his followers called to continue his work by proclaiming him as Lord and Savior, and calling people to faith and ongoing commitment to him, as a result of which his church grows.'
  - I Howard Marshall, *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2004), 34-35.

16  **Building on the work of others**

- Many
- Taken in hand
- Narrative
- Things fulfilled
- Handed down
- Eyewitnesses and servants of the word

17  **Building on the work of others**

- 'The word *too* [or 'also'] is important, because with it Luke acknowledges the value of the work of others. He is not writing to correct them. He is writing a new history because he has a specific purpose.... The new history is based not on a different past, but on a specific present. The new history becomes necessary because the same events are being read from new perspectives.'
  - Justo L. González, *The Story Luke Tells* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015), 4.

18  **Engaging in careful research**

- It seemed good to me also
- Followed everything carefully from the beginning

19  **Writing an orderly narrative**

- To write
- For you
- Accurately and in sequence

20  **Instructing Theophilus in the faith**

- In order that ...
- You might know
- Certainty
- Things you have been taught

21  **Useful Reading**

- Bock, D. L., *A Theology of Luke and Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012).

22  **Conclusion**

- Luke writes his gospel
  - As a coherent and persuasive narrative
  - Relating the events that are the fulfilment of God's promises and purposes
  - Based on the witness of others and as a means of witness to Theophilus and the wider church.