

## Introduction and Overview

### **AUTHOR:**

#### **Philemon 24** (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

#### **Colossians 4:14** (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

#### **2 Timothy 4:11** (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

#### **Acts 16:10–17; 20:5–21:18; 27:1–28:16**



The first part of both the Gospel of Luke and Acts are connected by their introduction to Theophilus, and that Acts continues the narrative. Although the Gospel of Luke does not specifically say that he is the author, “scholars generally agree that Luke wrote both this Gospel and the book of Acts. The author has been identified by the so-called ‘we passages’ in Acts (Acts 16:10–17; 20:5–21:18; 27:1–28:16). The author of Acts writes primarily from a third-person viewpoint, but in these passages changes abruptly to the first person, indicating that he was personally present and was a traveling companion of Paul. Since Luke is not mentioned in any of the ‘we passages,’ he is likely that companion.”<sup>1</sup>

Luke was a physician (Colossians 4:14), likely a Gentile because Paul in Colossians 4:10–14 names a couple of people of the circumcised (Jewish) and then speaks of Luke. Luke is the author of the Gospel, but also he wrote Acts (1:1) speaks of Theophilus just as Luke 1:3–4. Luke’s Gospel and Acts combined make him the author of the longest writing of the New Testament. Luke also did everything he could to account for places, times and people, with archeology backing up what he wrote.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). [\*Nelson’s complete book of Bible maps & charts: Old and New Testaments\*](#) (Rev. and updated ed.). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

## **DATE:**

The Gospel of Luke is believed to be written around AD 55–60 <sup>2</sup>

## **THEME:**

Luke is a Gentile, or non-Jewish in background. First, he attempts to write an orderly account of the life and teachings of Jesus, along with the new church in Acts. Second, he emphasizes many people, parables, and teachings that reach out to the marginalized or outsiders. In many ways, the Gospel of Luke is a book of teaching for people to learn what it means to be a Christian and worship God.<sup>3</sup>

The Gospel of Luke is also found in many of our church services in the liturgy: “Liturgically, the Church literally sings the Gospel of Luke through the Magnificat (1:46–55), the Benedictus (1:68–79), the Gloria in Excelsis (2:14), the Nunc Dimittis (2:29–32), and a portion of the Sanctus (“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”; 19:38). The Church baptizes in the triune name (3:21–22), confesses her faith in her Savior (9:20), prays the Lord’s Prayer (11:2–4), and eats and drinks Christ’s body and blood (22:19–20). Luke is indeed a narrative about Christ, but it is even more. Through His means of grace within the Church’s worship, Christ includes our story into His own.”<sup>4</sup>

## **PLACES:**

The following maps show the places the Gospel of Luke features. Luke is writing a journey of Jesus from heaven to earth, the birth, death, resurrection, followed by Jesus’ return to heaven in the ascension. Readers get the sense of a travel narrative as Luke follows Jesus through His life. In addition, unlike the other Gospels, Luke records a section of ministry to the east of the Jordan River known as Perea.

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<sup>2</sup> Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). [\*The Lutheran Study Bible\*](#) (p. 1700). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

<sup>3</sup> Just, A. A., Jr. (1996). [\*Luke 1:1–9:50\*](#) (p. 21). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Pub. House.

<sup>4</sup> Weidenschilling, J. M., (2006). [\*God’s Word for Today: Luke\*](#). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Pub. House.

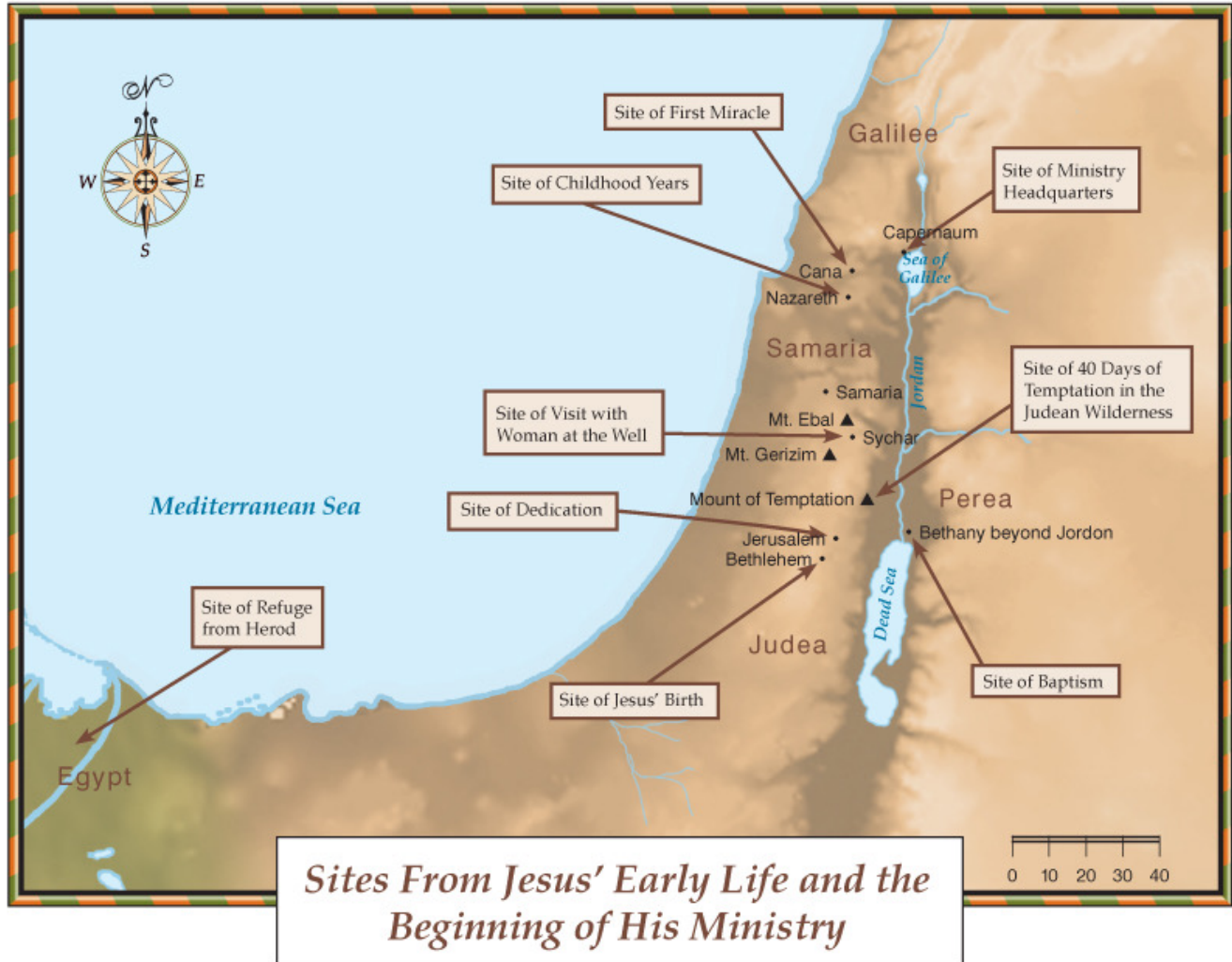
*Map*  
**30**



*Israel in Jesus' Day*

Not all of these sites are in the Gospel of Luke, but most of them are:

Map  
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## OUTLINE OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE:

Sections	Reference	Events / Narrative
<b>I</b>	1:1-4	The Prologue
<b>II</b>	1:5-2:52	Births of John the Baptist and Jesus
<b>III</b>	3:1-4:13	Jesus' Preparation for Ministry
<b>IV</b>	4:14-9:50	The Ministry in Galilee
<b>V</b>	9:51-13:21	The Ministry in Judea
<b>VI</b>	13:22-19:28	The Ministry in Perea
<b>VII</b>	19:29-21:38	The Ministry in Jerusalem
<b>VIII</b>	22:1-23:56a	The Passion
<b>IX</b>	23:56b-24:49	The Resurrection
<b>X</b>	24:50-53	The Ascension

## **READ BEFOREHAND:**

<b>Luke 1:5–2:52</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 1</b>
<b>Luke 3:1–5:11</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 2</b>
<b>Luke 5:12–7:10</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 3</b>
<b>Luke 7:11–8:56</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 4</b>
<b>Luke 9:1–10:37</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 5</b>
<b>Luke 10:38–12:48</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 6</b>
<b>Luke 12:49–14:35</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 7</b>
<b>Luke 15:1–16:31</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 8</b>
<b>Luke 17:1–18:43</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 9</b>
<b>Luke 19:1–20:47</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 10</b>
<b>Luke 21:1–22:71</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 11</b>
<b>Luke 23:1–24:53</b>	to prepare for	<b>Lesson 12</b>

## **BIBLE STUDY FOR TODAY:**

### **Read Luke 1:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

- Read **Luke 1:5–2:52** to prepare for next week's Lesson 1
- Prepare yourself to take a journey as you read through the Gospel of Luke
- Consider the many places the Gospel of Luke is used in the Divine Worship Service (read those sections in Luke listed in the introduction)
- Praise God that He included Gentiles like Luke, and us, in His plan of salvation!
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Maps shown on pages 3 & 4 from Standard Publishing<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [Standard Bible Atlas](#). (2006). (p. 46). Cincinnati: Standard Publishing.