



Luke

New
Testament

β 40th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 3.70% of the verses in the Bible

β Written by Luke

Luke, a doctor by profession, became a disciple of Jesus and a friend of Paul some time after Jesus' death and resurrection. He hadn't seen Jesus teach and live at first hand - he spoke to many eyewitnesses to write what was to become his Gospel. Have you wondered how excited Luke would have been as he talked to these people? For example, Mary and Elizabeth (chap 1), the Bethlehem shepherds (chap 2), Zachaeus (chap 19), the two disciples on the way to Emmaus (chap 24). Who told him about the stories of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son? None of these incidents are mentioned by the other Gospel writers. It is generally thought that he used some of Mark's accounts as a basis for his own writing. Luke also wrote the book of Acts, where for quite a lot of the time he is witnessing what God is doing through the early Church - the "we" passages are quite clear.

Facts: 35% of the book is unique to that Gospel, including the shepherds visiting Joseph, Mary and Jesus in Bethlehem. It is the longest book in the NT.

One of Luke's central ideas is that Jesus came to save everyone and that includes the marginalised in society. He often linked Old Testament passages with a commentary of what Jesus was doing and saying. We are regularly reminded that Jesus came to earth so that sinners could be accepted and forgiven by God. It is Jesus' death and resurrection that is paramount in what Luke describes. Jesus is the kingly Messiah that was promised hundreds of years earlier.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.