

# Luke

**Luke was the author of the third gospel account and Acts of the Apostles.**

**Luke was a Greek-speaking Gentile, probably from Antioch, who was an educated physician and a fellow traveller with Paul.**

**From the contents of the third gospel account and Acts we know the author in a very intimate way.**

The word Theophilus means “*one who loves God.*” Acts is also addressed to Theophilus. This may be a general dedication to all Christian readers. Also Theophilus may have been Luke’s patron who helped to finance the writing of Luke. More likely, Theophilus was a Roman acquaintance of Luke’s with a strong interest in the new Christian religion.

**Luke was a humble and disciplined writer, who keeps himself in the background and lets the light fall on the great theme of all of his writing, namely the glad tidings that Jesus Christ is both Lord and Saviour.**

Also that the victorious Redeemer chose, equipped and used His apostles, especially Paul, to proclaim the gospel throughout the then-known world.

**In his gospel account Luke emphasises Jesus Christ’s compassion. He also vividly recorded both the power demonstrated in Jesus Christ’s life and the care with which He treated people.**

**Luke also highlighted the relationships Jesus Christ had with women.**

Luke’s writing in Acts is full of sharp verbal pictures of people caught up in the greatest events in human history so far.

**Luke as a doctor and Paul’s companion must have been called on because of his professional due to the physical persecution Paul and the other apostles faced.**

Paul deeply appreciated Luke’s skills and faithfulness.

In his prologue to his gospel he mentions the thorough and intensive work in investigating all the relevant facts before he wrote, [Luke 1:1-4].

**Also in the “we sections” found in Acts, [Acts 16:10-17; Acts 20:5; Acts 21:18; Acts 27:1 to Acts 28:16] Luke unequivocally claims to be an intimate companion of Paul and an eye-witness of the happenings related in those scriptures.**

**Colossians 4:13-14** [New King James] “*For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.*”

**Indicates the importance of Luke’s work with him, and in Philemon 24, Paul names Luke as one of his “fellow labourers.”**

This agrees with the last two chapters of Acts, according to which Luke was with Paul on his eventful voyage to Rome.

In **2 Timothy 4:11** Paul, during his second imprisonment in Rome, shortly before his martyrdom [AD64] wrote the words “*only Luke is with me.*” This agrees with the earliest Christian tradition that Luke remained a faithful co-worker of Paul to the end.

What happened to Luke after the martyrdom of his great friend and leader we do not know for certain.

According to the anti-Marcionite prologue to his gospel, Luke continued to serve Jesus Christ without the distraction of family responsibilities until he died in Boeotia in Greece at the age of 84.

Through intimate contact over many years with Paul and many other Christian leaders, [Philip, Timothy, Silas, Mark, Barnabas, James the brother of Jesus Christ, etc.] and as the consequence of the fact that he was in Jerusalem, [Acts 21:17, etc.] Caesarea and other places intimately associated with Jesus Christ and His first apostles, Luke had the very best opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge regarding Jesus Christ and the history of the earliest Christian Church.

Luke definitely and purposefully made full use of these opportunities, is corroborated by the quality and historical accuracy of both Luke and Acts.

### **Lessons from the life of Luke –**

The words we leave behind will be a lasting picture of who we are.

Even the most successful person needs the personal care of others.

Excellence is shown by how we work when no-one is noticing.

As a medical doctor, Luke knew the importance of being thorough. He used his skills of observation and analysis to thoroughly investigate the stories about Jesus Christ.

His diagnosis?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is true!

You can read Luke's account of Jesus Christ's life with confidence that it was written by a clear thinker and thoughtful researcher, to help us understand how God has acted in human history.